

Hafa Adai!

Family fun for a good cause. **PAGE 3**

Historic Law Week proclamation ceremony in Guam, CNMI. **PAGE 5**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 76

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

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DPS affirms arrest of DOC officer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fresh on the heels of reports that the Department of Corrections has recalled all service-issued firearms, it has now been learned that a DOC officer was arrested over a week ago for allegedly threatening his girlfriend with a gun.

See DPS on Page 4

IPI asks court to vacate \$500K judgment

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to vacate the \$500,000 judgment that was previously granted in favor of U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd.,

on the grounds of "extraordinary circumstances."

IPI filed last Sunday a motion for relief from the final judgment in the defamation suit filed against them by USA Fanter.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Man-

See IPI on Page 4

TO RESOLVE BUDGET REVISION BILL DIFFERENCES

Joint Senate, House conference committee sets meeting today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate's and House of

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
165



Yumul



Manglona

Representatives' conference committees will hold a joint meeting today, Tuesday, to resolve their differences on a bill that would revise the budget law for the CNMI government's operations for

See JOINT on Page 4



Ji Jing Borja, the co-defendant of Marvin Rodney Pangelinan in an ongoing bribery case in Superior Court, claims he was falsely arrested at the Smiling Cove Marina last Tuesday following a verbal altercation with a Division of Fish and Wildlife employee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man claims he was falsely arrested

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The co-defendant of a CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife official who is accused of accepting a bribe claims that he was falsely arrested and was mistreated at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Ji Jing Borja, the co-defendant of Marvin Rodney Pangelinan in the ongoing bribery case in Superior Court, was

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Savory Bistro Cafe has risen from the ashes of the old with the new Middle Road location.

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WORLD

The Russian presidency of the U.N. Security Council has been the most contentious so far.

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LIFE & STYLE

The final curtain came down Sunday on New York's production of "The Phantom of the Opera."

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MY MARIANAS

Writing Contest

**Open to all CNMI High School Students
9th-12th grade**

Prizes:
\$500 1st place
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Submission deadline is **May 4th, 4:00PM.**

Winning essays will be featured in the editorial sections of Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council website.

Free Writers Workshop at JKPL on Saturday April 22, 2023 from 9:30-12:00 pm

Theme: Senses of Home

The CNMI National anthem captures the author's sense of home through vivid details that express a longing, deep appreciation, and allegiance to our islands. This year's My Marianas Writing Contest theme, "Senses of Home", challenges writers to share their own reflections of home as experienced through one or more of their senses (sight, sound, taste, touch, and/or smell).

- Essays should be double-spaced, 3-5 pages and demonstrate skillful use of imagery to unfold one or more sensory experiences or memories that describe or define your relationship to The Marianas as home.

Please visit www.nmhcouncil.org for essay formatting details, Publishing Consent Form, writing prompts, the official scoring rubric, and more.

For questions please contact Naomi Tudela at naomi@nmhcouncil.org or 670.235.4785

SUBMIT ALL ESSAYS TO INFO@NMHCOUNCIL.ORG

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

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Local

DUE TO CNMI'S TIGHT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Castro thinks substance abuse is going to be a big issue in the coming months

» **Lawmaker asks conference committee to consider supporting funding for substance abuse, addiction, and rehab program**



Castro

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Rep. Manny Gregory Castro (Ind-Saipan) has asked members of the Senate and House of Representatives conference committee to consider support funding for the substance abuse, addiction, and rehabilitation program.

Castro, who chairs the Education Committee, pointed out at a special session in the House of Representatives last Friday that, given the tough economic times and hardships, it's important that the Legislature assist efforts in the prevention of drug abuse and

help those families that are currently in the program.

The Senate and House have formed a conference committee to hammer out a mutually acceptable legislation to revise the budget law for fiscal year 2023.

Having been to the HOPE Recovery Center site that day, Castro said he finds it really does need funding assistance, noting that there are many persons in the program that have "potential."

Castro said the Senate version of a bill that seeks

to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget law has slashed \$100,000 that was originally intended for substance abuse and recovery program.

Castro said he has seen firsthand some government agencies that have full-time employees, yet there's hardly any activity. "We really need to look at all the departments... because I don't understand. If drug use and drug prevention is really important I don't see the equitable support going there," he said.

Castro underscored the need to look into the funding issue for the substance abuse, addiction, and rehabilitation program, saying substance abuse is going to be a big issue in the coming months, given the CNMI's financial situation.

The lawmaker said he knows that his precinct, Precinct 2, is going to be directly affected with substance abuse problem and that it's going to spread out to the other precincts if they don't take care of the issue. Areas under Precinct 2 are Susupe and Chalan Kanoa.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2023

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Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.



Family fun for a good cause

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With one promoting autism awareness and the other awareness against sexual abuse, two nonprofit organizations came together for families and community members in Garapan and Capital Hill last Saturday morning and afternoon for a day of fun activities.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence held their S.A.F.E. Jamboree last Saturday at the Capital Hill Softball field and saw many community members not only joining in the activities but also learning more about the services of CNMI organizations that can help or support those who have been victims or know a victim, further spreading awareness against sexual violence.

With live music, and cultural and dance performances, the jamboree started at 11am, and continued for a good five hours until 4pm. Many families could be seen enjoying the event's activities, games, and food. Raffle drawings were also held and prizes given to participants. Many community members also left the event grounds with a free #SAAM2023 T-shirt.

The event was part of the

many ways the NMCADSV and partnering organizations are advocating against sexual abuse, especially this month, since it is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Their theme this year is "Support all Survivors. End Victim Blaming!"

Just a couple of miles down from the NMCADSV event, at Micro Beach, Center Field in Garapan, the CNMI Family 2 Family Unique Pieces in Different Colors partnered with the Autism Society of the CNMI to host the Autism Awareness Family Fun Day, which was open to the public as well. The event lasted from 3pm to 6pm.

The F2F Unique Pieces and Autism Society of the CNMI organizations spearheaded the event, but several organizations, including some from the Disability Network Partners, also participated, such as the Department of Youth Services, the Center for Living Independently, Early Head Start Program, and the Northern Marianas College's SOE SP23. Their booths did not only have information but also had activities and games for kids to participate in. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. also brought their mobile clinic to the event, and the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical

Services brought a firetruck and firefighters.

"We're excited to have a lot of the community members coming out. ... We want to... promote autism awareness and ensure that no one feels that they are alone. We want all families to know that there is a big community that is supporting the cause..." said Autism Society of the CNMI president Clarice DLG Arriola.

F2F Unique Pieces' Autism support group president April Lisua, vice president Chimako Namauleg, and family support specialist Chrislaine Manibusan, who are also parents of children with autism, shared that the F2F program for kids under the spectrum wasn't just for the

benefit of the kids, but is mainly focused on supporting the families of these gifted children.

"I was one of those parents that didn't know about support groups and I didn't even know that I needed it, so coming into this support group I feel more relaxed," Lisua said.

"We can totally relate in many ways, with the growth of our children, the milestones that they need, and just sharing experiences and growing from there. So I'm very grateful for this support group and the families that are in it," said Manibusan.

Manibusan also shared that F2F's services aren't just limited to autism, but also to families of children with special

needs. "We serve families who have children with any special healthcare needs, or any special condition that is not typical for a child. We have support groups and one of the support groups is for the families who have children with autism."

Lisua, Namauleg, and Manibusan encourage members of the community, whether they have an autistic child or know someone who does and needs a support group, to join the organization.

"You are definitely not alone. There are families who share very similar happiness and challenges, but there are support groups that are here for you. Just like us in the beginning, we didn't know there

were support groups and when we found out we didn't even realize we needed something like this and just realize that there are families that are there to support us, because they understand. They live a similar life too..." said Manibusan.

For more information on the program, the F2F Unique Pieces headquarters are located on the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, or check them out on Facebook @UniquePiecesCNMI.

For more information on Sexual Violence Awareness, call NMCADSV at 670-234-3878, or email info@endviolencenmi.org. You can also follow them on their socials @EndViolenceNMI.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)

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ATTN: Hyeyoung KIM, P.O.BOX 10003 PMB 586, Saipan, MP 96950.



PUBLIC NOTICE



Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eighteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, April 21, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. via zoom. Please see the link below.

AGENDA¹

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments²

III. Unfinished Business

IV. New Business

1. Early Intervention Part C Grant Application
2. Special Education Part B Grant Application
3. FY 2021 Audit
4. FY 2024 Budget Request
5. Revisit American Rescue Plan (ARP)
6. FY 2023 Consolidated Grant (CG) Spending Allocations
7. Stronger Connections Grant (New)
8. Head Start/Early Head Start FY 2023:
 - a. Refunding Grant Narrative and Budget (Continuation Year 5)
 - b. Cost Of Living Adjustment Grant Narrative and Budget (COLA)
 - c. Quality Improvement Grant Narrative and Budget (QI)
 - d. One-Time Program Improvement Funds Grant Narrative and Budget
9. U.S. Dept of OIA
10. Solar Panels
11. School Level Projects
12. Schools with damaged/no fence
13. School Flagpole Status
14. HMS Temporary Classroom Status
15. Certification & Licensure Matter
 - a. CLO Report No. 2023-18-02

V. Executive Session³

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

¹ Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99825764557?pwd=bTV3V3R5ZUVzOW9kZmpKTjZx-MmxJdz09>

Meeting ID: 998 2576 4557
Passcode: 055464

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



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House PUTC's ad hoc committee aims to resolve CUC issues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Vincent Seman Aldan (Ind-

Saipan) disclosed Friday that the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee that he chairs is creating an ad hoc com-

mittee to try to resolve some issues facing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Aldan disclosed at a House special

session that one of the recommendations of some PUTC members during their meeting with CUC and the Office of the Attorney General was to create an ad hoc committee to focus and seek solutions to CUC issues.

"The way CUC is designed is not being run properly. We found that out through our extensive months of investigation," said Aldan, who served as leader of the Transition Team for CUC.

Given that every individual in the entire CNMI is affected by CUC's utility rates, they want everybody in

the community to know that their ad hoc committee's hearing is going to be open to the public.

"Nothing is [going to] be hidden. We want everybody to participate. And everything that we find [will be] open to everybody," Aldan said.

He said they would like the public to understand that they are working on CUC issues in light of the economic conditions that the CNMI is in.

"We would like to make sure that that everybody is well-informed and we are open to any comments," Aldan said.



Aldan

DPS reports two cases of boats in distress, 1 that capsized in March

The Boating Safety unit of the Department of Public Safety is encouraging all boaters to take extra time to make sure you keep up with boat maintenance and have all safety equipment readily available on your boat.

The unit gave the reminder in the wake of two separate reported distressed boat calls and one capsized boat report in March this year.

According to a Boating Safety report, DPS 911 dispatch received a call via cellphone on March 20, 2023, at about 9:41am, of a reported boat in distress between Saipan and Tinian.

At about 9:59am, responding of-

ficers located the distressed boat, checked on the conditions of occupants, and towed the distressed boat back to Smiling Cove Marina. Upon further investigation, it was learned that the boat operator could not get the boat engine to start after several attempts. That's when they made the 911 call for assistance.

Separately, on March 26, 2023, at about 1:08pm, DPS 911 dispatch received a call via cellphone of a reported capsized vessel outside the Managaha Island reef line on Saipan. The caller stated that two occupants were onboard the boat.

Responding officers arrived at the location of the capsized boat at about 1:28pm and secured the two occupants. Boating Safety officers proceeded to bail water out of the vessel. At about 2:09pm, officers towed the distressed boat back to Smiling Cove Marina. Upon further investigation, it was learned that the two occupants were open-water fishing north of Managaha when a huge wave hit them and caused their boat to capsize. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at
www.saipantribune.com

DPS

From Page 1

DOC officer Anthony Cruz, 43, was arrested last April 9 on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic violence, and disturbing the peace. However, Cruz was released after his arrest pending investigation by the Office of the Attorney General.

To date, the OAG Criminal Division has yet to issue a warrant for Cruz's arrest, said Chester Hinds, OAG Criminal Division's chief prosecutor.

"He was arrested and released pending investigation into the allegations. There has been no warrant issued as of yet. We're still looking at the evidence," said Hinds.

According to a Department of Public Safety press release, DPS dispatch received a 911 call last April 9, at about 7:55pm, reporting a domestic violence incident at a residence in Finasisu.

During the investigation, the alleged victim told police that she had gone to pick up her boyfriend, Cruz, from DOC where he works. While in the car headed to their family compound, an argument ensued between the two over money,

the victim claimed.

When they arrived at their family compound, the victim said Cruz stepped out of the car, took his service-issued firearm, and pointed it at her head, stating, "This is what you want?"

Later that evening, at around 11:50pm, DPS officers arrested Cruz on charges of domestic violence, disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Before Cruz was transported to DOC to be booked and detained, DPS officers collected Cruz's service-issued gun, and three magazines of ammunition as evidence.

DPS said the case has since been forwarded to the OAG's Criminal Division.

Following the incident, Corrections Commissioner Anthony Torres recalled all service firearms that were issued to Corrections officers, as he plans to review DOC firearm policies in the CNMI.

"I recalled all the service-issued firearms because I am currently reviewing the policy pertaining to it. This is the first Department of Corrections that I am aware of that has service-issued firearms for all sworn personnel," he said.

Although he didn't speak on the

arrest of one of his officers, Torres did state that he wanted to review service-issued firearm policies because the CNMI Department of Corrections is the first correctional facility he has served at that allows its officers to take home their service firearms.

"Sworn personnel here have service-issued firearms, but this is the first institution where they have been allowed to take it home. I recalled all of them and I am reviewing policy. They have access to it when on-duty at work and assigned to a special unit or when escorting inmates out of the institution," he said.

Nationwide, police officers are usually the enforcement officers authorized to take home their firearms, not DOC officers, Torres explained. In light of this, Torres said he wants to thoroughly review the CNMI's policies regarding service firearms, specifically for DOC.

"Police officers nationwide, I believe, are allowed to take home their service-issued weapons. Correctional officers, on the other hand, don't in the mainland. They are armed when supervising or escorting inmates outside of the facility. The officers don't have the service-issued weapons to take home with them, whereas police officers can take them home," Torres said.

JOINT

From Page 1

fiscal year 2023.

This developed after Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) appointed Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as chairperson of the Senate Conference Committee, while House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) appointed Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) to chair the House Conference Committee.

The bicameral conference committee will be tasked with hammering out a mutually acceptable legislation to revise the budget law for fiscal year 2023.

Manglona and Yumul on Saturday set the joint conference committee's meeting for today, Tuesday, at 11am, in the House chamber.

DeLeon Guerrero appointed Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) as vice chairperson of the Senate Con-

ference Committee, Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) as member, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as an alternate member.

To assist the Senate conferees, DeLeon Guerrero appointed Senate legal counsel Jose A. Bermudes, fiscal analyst Dave Demapan, and legislative assistants Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel and Devin C. Macaranas.

"I place every trust and confidence that our Senate conferees will work cooperatively to resolve any concerns with the House conferees in a timely manner to formally act on the [fiscal year] 2023 CNMI budget plan," the Senate president said.

Villagomez earlier appointed Yumul as chairman of the House Conference Committee, with Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) as members, and Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) as an alternate member.

That came after the House rejected

Friday the Senate's proposed amendments to the bill that would revise the budget for fiscal year 2023.

Attao said during Friday's House special session that the position of the House would be to reject the Senate's version because they want to understand why an additional \$225,000 is being given to both Tinian and Rota.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios had asked the Legislature to revise the fiscal year 2023 budget, noting that just after the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, a large portion of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act that were available for appropriation in fiscal year 2023 have already been expended and are no longer available for the rest of fiscal year 2023.

The Legislature needs to pass this week the legislation to revise the budget since Palacios is cutting the work schedule of some Executive Branch employees to just 72 hours starting this Monday, April 24, and through the end of fiscal year 2023.

IPI

From Page 1

glona previously ruled in favor of USA Fanter in the defamation lawsuit and awarded it a \$500,000 judgment.

IPI now wants the court to relieve them from the judgment on the grounds of "extraordinary circumstances" due to the gross negligence and virtual abandonment by its legal counsel.

"Comes now, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, by and through its counsels, hereby respectfully moves this court for an order vacating the judgment against IPI entered on March 20, 2023, based upon 'extraordinary circumstances' that justify such relief under federal rule of civil procedure," IPI said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, USA Fanter was awarded

\$500,000 in damages after the District Court for the NMI determined that two press releases IPI had issued to two CNMI newspapers defamed USA Fanter "of its reputation as a reputable construction contractor, having done business in the CNMI for over 30 years, and that defamation caused USA Fanter damage."

USA Fanter was awarded \$250,000 in general damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages, for a total judgment amount of \$500,000, plus post-judgment interest.

The 2019 press releases had accused USA Fanter of lying and inflating its fees.

USA Fanter is a former construction contractor of IPI.

Attorney Samuel I. Mok filed the lawsuit on behalf of USA Fanter while attorney Colin Murphy Thompson represented the plaintiff during the trial.

MAN

From Page 1

arrested at the Smiling Cove Marina last Tuesday but he claims he was falsely arrested and was not even told the charges against him.

Saipan Tribune learned that after Borja was booked and detained at the Department of Corrections, he posted bail and is set to appear before a judge on May 1.

Borja, who is the owner and operator of Freedom Tours and a supervisor at the Four Seasons tour agency, said in an interview that he had gone to the Smiling Cove Marina last Tuesday morning to drop off guests who booked for a day trip to Managaha.

After dropping off his guests, he said he was stopped by DFW personnel who claimed he was an unlicensed tour operator and that he is prohibited from being in the marina. Borja denied the accusation and told the DFW personnel that he is licensed and that he has documentation to prove it but the DFW personnel told him to take it up with the DFW office.

After exchanging a few words, Borja went to DFW's office in Lower Base where he learned that no orders had been given prohibiting him from using the marina.

With this information, Borja said he went back to the marina that same day to drop off more guests and was met with the same personnel whom he claims yelled at him and told him to leave.

After a verbal altercation between Borja and the DFW personnel, police arrived. Borja claims he was then arrested falsely and he was not even told why he was being arrested. He added that police only took the DFW personnel's side of the story and not his own.

He was later booked and detained at DOC where he posted bail and was released on his own recognizance.

Saipan Tribune spoke with DFW director Manny Pangelinan, who stated he does not want to comment on the situation.

"I don't want to comment on that issue, especially since it's one of my staff. I want to allow him his due process and let the court handle that. I do not want to comment further on that," he stated.

Pangelinan and Borja were recently charged with two counts of bribery. According to the information filed with the Superior Court, Pangelinan allegedly accepted a bribe from Borja.

The charges came after a video circulated on social media that allegedly showed Borja paying Pangelinan \$100 to gain access to the Grotto after hours. Pangelinan has since denied the allegation.

In a recent statement from Borja, he claims that the video was just a "prank" and that it was just meant to "scare" Pangelinan into paying him back for borrowing money from him. He explained that he was not paying Pangelinan to access the Grotto and that Pangelinan never asked him for payment to enter the Grotto.

Historic Law Week proclamation ceremony in Guam, CNMI

» Ceremony will be livestreamed from Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan

The NMI Judiciary, together with the Judiciary of Guam, will hold a proclamation signing ceremony on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:15am, to recognize May 1-5 as Law Week in the Commonwealth

and Guam. For the first time, the ceremony will be livestreamed and will feature simultaneous signings at five venues—Supreme Court of Guam, Guma’ Hustisia, U.S. District Court

for the NMI, Kotten Tinian, and Rota Centron Hustisia. Law Week is an annual event in the Commonwealth that celebrates the rule of law and the principles of constitutional government. It is

part of a national celebration that dates back to 1958, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower first established a day of national dedication to the principles of government under law. This year’s Law Week

theme is “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.”

The April 21 signing ceremony will feature remarks from the justices of the Guam and NMI supreme court, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the U.S. District Court of the NMI, as well as from CNMI Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Guam Gov. Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Joshua F. Tenorio, and legislative branch officials. The ceremony will be on simultaneous broadcast by the Judiciary of Guam and KUAM-TV.

In the Commonwealth, several other events are planned to commemorate Law Week. On May 1, the winners of the elementary school poster contest and middle school essay contest will be announced. On May 5, the Supreme Court will host the Attorney General’s Cup, an annual speech competition for high school students. Justices and judges have also been visiting middle and elementary schools throughout Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as part of the “Justices and Judges in the Classroom” program. In addition, the NMI Judiciary will sponsor ceremonies recognizing May as Drug Court Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. (PR)

GMS Middle School Falcons fare well in NJSDA regionals

Green Meadow School’s middle school students fared well during the regional competition of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association last Feb. 7-11, 2023, and the Junior International Thespian Society on March 18, 2023, at Hopwood Middle School.

The following individuals won these events in NJSDA: Louise Elesha Manansala won second place in Declamation finals and sixth place in Impromptu Speaking finals. Paula Angela Bernardo placed eighth in Dramatic Interpretation and was a semifi-

nalist in Poetry Interpretation. Paul Andrei Bernardo advanced to the quarterfinals of the Storytelling event. The team of Isabella Marie Mallari and Nelisa Nicole Acaba bagged second place in Duet Acting with a Superior Ranking during the Junior In-




GMS Duet Acting Team Isabella Marie Mallari, left, and Nelisa Nicole Acaba bagged a Superior Rank (highest rank a competitor can get) during the Regional Junior International Thespian competition.

ternational Thespian Society Regional Competition. Acaba and Mallari were the CNMI’s representative in Duet Acting at the International Thespian Festival at Bloomington, In-

diana last year. The GMS administration wants to thank the middle school coach, the parents and the teachers for their full support. (PR)




Falcons Paula Angela Bernardo, left, Paul Andrei Bernardo, center, and Louise Elesha Manansala fought the good fight during the Regional National Junior Speech and Debate Association.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-23-006

Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project for IF 208, OB 6, OB 19 and OB 23 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of Owner Furnished GAC units, chain link fence removal and installation of new chain link fence, connection of the new waterline to existing waterline, connection of the influent and effluent lines of the GAC units to the existing waterline.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Economic Development Authority (USED A) and OIA. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USED A and OIA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-006, Isley Field and Obyan Wells Granular Activated Carbon Water Filtration System Construction Project**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 25, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer, Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, Engineer, Senior via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

One of two suspects in crystal meth case pleads guilty

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two individuals facing charges of illegal possession of methamphetamine, or “ice” has pleaded guilty to the charge against him.

Morell Bayani Esteves, 47, pleaded guilty Thursday before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo to one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Govendo sentenced Esteves to an imprisonment term of three years, all suspended

except for nine months, with credit for the 113 days he had already served.

According to Govendo, Esteves will serve the sentence day for day without the possibility of parole, early release, weekend release or other similar programs.

After serving his sentence, he will be placed on supervised probation for three years, pay a fine of \$500, and perform 60 hours of community work service.

In addition, the Community Guidance Center will evaluate

the defendant within 30 days for any course of treatment focused on drug and alcohol treatment and mental health evaluation.

If after evaluation CGC recommends counselling, the defendant must complete all recommended counselling and treatment, Govendo said.

Esteves is set to be released from Department of Corrections custody on Sept. 23, 2023, at 8am

The case against Esteves’ co-defendant, Kemmy Encha Qiu, 38, is still pending with

the Superior Court.

According to court documents, a patrol police officer traveling south on Texas Road, Susupe on the afternoon of Nov. 2, 2022, saw a maroon sedan traveling north with its window rolled halfway. Police noted that the female driver, later identified as Qui, was not wearing a seatbelt, prompting the officers to make a U-turn in pursuit of the sedan to conduct a violator stop.

Upon approaching the vehicle, the police officer saw Qui

with a male, later identified as Esteves, seated in the front passenger seat. The officer told the driver why she was pulled over, and asked her to present her driver’s license, vehicle registration, and insurance documents.

As the police officer was speaking to Qui, he said he noticed a small, clear Ziploc bag on the driver side that contained a cut straw and a crystalline substance inside it. When police asked about the contents of the Ziploc bag,

Qiu said, “*asiga*,” which is the Chamorro word for salt and denied that it belonged to her. The substance later tested positive for methamphetamine through a field narcotics identification kit.

At the booking section of the Department of Corrections, Esteves was searched by Corrections officers who found two clear Ziploc bags containing a crystalline substance hidden in his cellphone case. The contents also tested positive for methamphetamine.

Public advised of MOS activities in As Lito


Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” Jose Blas Camacho advises the public that his operations team is currently conducting beautification activities in the As Lito area of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road. Camacho is cautioning

motorists who are travelling on the road from Guangdong Hardware to the Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp) office to be vigilant of roadside signs that have been deployed for everyone’s safety.

Camacho thanks the community “for their usual cooperation as we work together to beautify our island and keep our communities safe,” said a Saipan Mayor’s Office news release.

For any questions, com-

ments, or inquiries, contact the Saipan Mayor’s office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor’s office is also open through lunch. (PR)


Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
 P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
 Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, April 21, 2023** at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

<p>I. Preliminary Matters</p> <p>A. Call to Order</p> <p>B. Roll Call</p> <p>C. Adoption of Agenda</p> <p>D. Correspondence</p>	<p>B. Settlement Agreement and Release Agreement - NMI Superior Court 11-0114, NMI Retirement Fund vs. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation</p>
<p>II. Election of Officers</p>	<p>VI. New Business</p> <p>A. CUC Organizational Chart</p> <p>B. Proposed FY 2024 Budget</p> <p>C. CUC/CPA MOU</p> <p>D. RFP - Office Space Lease</p> <p>E. Personnel Matters</p> <p>a. Employment Contract Terms</p> <p>b. Compensation Salary Range</p>
<p>III. Adoption of Minutes</p> <p>1. May 5, 2022, Regular Board Meeting</p> <p>2. March 21, 2023 Special Board Meeting</p>	<p>VII. Public Comments**</p> <p>VIII. Executive Session***</p>
<p>IV. Management Reports</p> <p>A. Executive Director’s Report</p> <p>B. Chief Financial Officer’s Report</p> <p>C. Legal Counsel’s Report</p>	<p>IX. Announcements</p>
<p>V. Old Business</p> <p>A. CHCC and the CNMI Gov’t Payment Agreement for CHCC’s Utility Services</p>	<p>X. Adjournment</p>

/s/


JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN PRO TEM

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
 ** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
 *** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.



AK SUPPORTS ACT
Atkins Kroll Inc. presents Tuesday, April 11, a \$1,913 donation to Autism Community Together Guam in support of Autism Awareness Month. ACT is a non-profit support group for individuals with autism, their families, and supporters in Guam. From left, Ernie Galito, AK business development director; Trina Cruz, AK marketing and communications director; Josephine Blas, ACT president; Mye Ganan-Flores, ACT treasurer; and Athena Ramos, AK marketing manager.

ATKINS KROLL


CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-GOV-42300065

ROTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT
SUBMISSION DATE: **10:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the **Rota Department of Public Works Equipment**, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project is funded by the 702 Covenant Capital Improvement Project funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on Wednesday, **April 5, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at the CIP Office at the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building located in Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, April 19, 2023**. Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST, April 26, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 9, 2023**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor, CNMI

/s/Brien S. Nicholas, Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services


CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-GOV-42300066

NMTI ROOF REPLACEMENT & IMPROVEMENTS
SUBMISSION DATE: **9:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2023**

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the **NMTI Roof Replacement & Improvements**, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project is funded by the 702 Capital Improvement Project funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **Wednesday, April 11, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at the project site in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, May 2, 2023**.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST, May 9, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 15, 2023**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor, CNMI

/s/Brien S. Nicholas, Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT


INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW23-ITB NO.: 42300068

SUBMISSION DATE: **May 11, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

“Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 34 (Kagman Road) Intersection Hazard Elimination Project, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 11, 2023**, at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on the Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 28, 2023**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 05, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RAY N. YUMUL
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

UOG, GovGuam partner with Blue Planet Alliance on sustainability efforts

A heart attack gave tech entrepreneur Henk Rogers, founder of Blue Planet Alliance, a life reset.

He decided to use the fortune he made, in part out of developing video games and acquiring the rights to then-obscure Tetris, to sustain efforts to reverse climate change.

Rogers said he began strongly advocating against the use of carbon-based fuels, particularly because of predictions that humans are “going to kill all the coral in the world by the end of the century.”

Rogers shared his life story and advocacy as the keynote speaker last Thursday at the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Addressing climate change and biodiversity loss will be the defining ecological, political, and humanitarian challenge of our time, according to the recent article “Integrating biogeography and behavioral ecology to address biodiversity loss,” published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the world’s most cited and comprehensive multidisciplinary scientific journals. The article discussed how multiple sectors can work together to “modulate extinction risk.”

Based in Hawaii and New York, Rogers pushed for the adoption of Hawaii’s mandate for 100% renewable energy by 2045. Using coal and fossil fuel oil for power generation drives the high cost of living in Hawaii and low wages, Rogers said.

At the conference, Rogers, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero,



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Henk Rogers, founder of Blue Planet Alliance, shakes hands with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero on April 13 at the 2023 University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability at the Hyatt Regency Guam.



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Henk Rogers, founder of Blue Planet Alliance, center, joins University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise, left, and director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant at the 2023 the University of Guam Conference on Island Sustainability on April 13 at the Hyatt Regency Guam

UOG president Thomas W. Krise, director Austin Shelton of the UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, and other dignitaries signed up to form partnerships with Blue Planet Alliance.

The partnership with Government of Guam officials reinforced the island’s commitment to achieving its 100% renewable energy mandate

by 2045, joining other island states and nations such as Hawaii, Tonga, and Tuvalu in signing the Blue Planet Climate Agreement to solidify their dedication to this cause.

Krise also signed a memorandum of understanding that officially made the University of Guam a member of the Blue Planet Alliance.

According to Rogers, codifying renewal energy goals

through legislation is part of alliance building and ensures continuity of the commitment. He’s a proponent of starting initiatives from the islands and then expanding toward the nation and internationally.

Guam has a public law that sets a renewable energy goal of 100% by 2045. Sen. Amanda Shelton and then-senator Clynt Ridgell drafted the bill that became public law.

“Thank you so much that you have already done this for Guam,” Rogers said.

Shelton said the signing of the agreement is the start of an important partnership to fortify the island against the devastating impacts of climate change.

“This agreement not only highlights the importance of collaboration between sectors, but also emphasizes our responsibility to preserve the beauty and resilience of our island. Let us continue to work

together in implementing sustainable solutions and championing climate action for Guam and our region,” he said.

Local initiatives

Speaker Therese Terlaje and Guam Delegate James Moylan also spoke at the conference on Wednesday.

Terlaje highlighted the various legislative measures that protect the environment and promote sustainability. These measures include legislation that supports the modernization of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the promotion of recycling, and Zero Waste initiatives, among others.

Addressing the conference participants, she said, “I look forward, with great excitement to the continuing collaboration of the Guam Legislature with all of you in this room, our neighbors throughout the region, to build paths to sustainability and to reclaiming our cultural practices and localiz-

ing solutions.”

Moylan recalled the abundance of island resources while growing up in Guam.

“We need to start building a sustainable future for ourselves and our island and these conferences are important to do just that,” he said.

The conference is themed “Rediscover the Depths of Our Island Abundance.” The conference wrapped up with a youth summit last Saturday, April 15.

For more information, go to <https://www.uog.edu/cis2023/connect-with-us> (UOG)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFTON, J CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, J NO. 04-0043
J
J
-v- J
J
SAMUEL RAYBURN, J
Defendant. J

ELEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39, 297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.

Total area of the property:
39,297 square meters

Known encumbrances:

The interest to be sold is a fully-prepaid leasehold interest which expires on May 31, 2042. There are no other known valid encumbrances materially affecting title.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 6th day of April, 2023:

/s/ _____
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Henk Rogers, founder of Blue Planet Alliance, left, displays the UOG Triton sign in a photo with University of Guam president Thomas W. Krise.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCLPB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/22/2023) and (03/16/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 - A. Financial Report for HCLPB Revolving Fund
 - B. FY2024 Annual Budget
 - C. Update on three Proposed Regulations
 - D. Reminder: OPA Filing of Statement of Financial Interest for Calendar Year 2022
 - E. Update on Independent Dental Practice Monitoring Reviewer – Dr. Song B. Rhim
- VIII. Investigator's Report - None
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 1. MEMO – Implementation of Cost Containment Measures for FY2023
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Application
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
 - A. Advice on waiver of fees for U.S. Military
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 09-0505

-v-

ALEINA D. :
HOFSCHNEIDER, :
ALVIN U. :
HOFSCHNEIDER, :
and LOUISE C. :
HOFSCHNEIDER, :
Defendants. :

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW -7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW -3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the hour of 1:45 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of April, 2023:

/s/ _____
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE



P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. March 1, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
 - ii. March 30, 2023 Special Board Meeting

2) Public Comments

3) Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee
 - i. Fund Status Report
- b. Adhoc Committee
 - i. Japan
 - ii. Korea

4) Old Business

- a. RFP for Office Space
- b. Riding Mower

5) New Business

- a. Board Updates:
 - i. Japan Trip: April 3-6, 2023
 - ii. CDBG-DR Grant

b. Promotional Programs:

- i. Japan Market
- ii. Korea Market
- c. 2023 Military MWR “Go Local Fair” Show
- d. Sponsorship Funding Request
 - i. Flame Tree Arts Festival
 - ii. Hafa Adai Tirow Thursday
 - iii. Gilita Festival – Rota
- e. P’Art Music Corporation
- f. Honorary Ambassador Nominee
- g. Change Order Request: MVA-CT-21-2028 Purchase, Design, Develop, Test and Installation of Research System
- h. Request for comment:
 - i. HB23-038: “To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.”

6) Executive Session

7) Miscellaneous/Announcements

- a. Next Regular Board Meeting

8) Adjournment

/s/Gloria Cavanagh

Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 76Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Real consequences for a stupid kid: Accused Pentagon secrets leaker Jack Teixeira deserves harsh punishment for endangering national security

So maybe Jack Teixeira, a lowly 21-year-old enlisted man in the Massachusetts Air National Guard still living at his mom's house, thought it was wicked cool to share some info he had seen at work at a Cape Cod Air Force base with his online pals, most of whom are kids living in their own moms' houses.

That's fine for this pathetic character to build himself up to impress some teen losers in their "Thug Shaker Central" chat group on Discord, but that he used stolen highly classified national defense documents ain't cool and we trust that young Airman Teixeira will soon enough be serving in a different uniform at a different kind of federal facility.

The guys bonded online over their shared love of guns and stuff like that and Teixeira allegedly committed serious federal felonies, not for money like a traitor selling out his country or because his politics were opposed to Washington's actions or even to be a whistleblower exposing what he thought was wrong, but to show off to his internet pals.

And for that, the national security of the United States and our allies, like the brave Ukrainians trying to hold off the invading Russians, have been put at risk. How stupid is this?

Teixeira and his lawyers will become very familiar with 18 U.S.C. 793, also known as the Espionage Act. The unauthorized removal, retention, and transmission of classified national defense information is a serious offense that can bring 10 years in prison for each document leaked, no matter the motivation, be it money from the Kremlin or an online bragging session.

Now that the damaging leaker has been found, the Pentagon must examine how it vets the people who are given access to such sensitive secrets. The feds only realized that something was amiss when one of the "Thug Shaker Central" guys, be it Teixeira or another sad case, let the secrets spill beyond their little group. Are there other such secret thieves out there who are being more careful in covering their tracks?

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Why does the Republican Party have a death wish?

From top to bottom, at all levels of government, the Republican Party is on a tear to epitomize the timeless truth of 19th century Britain's Lord Acton: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Signs of backlash are building, however. Witness Democrats' takeover of the Wisconsin Supreme Court last week, and its capture of Michigan's entire government last fall—victories in two heartland states that Democrats had long feared were slipping away from them. By public demand, the Republican-controlled Tennessee House has had to reseal the two Black Democratic representatives it expelled last week for egging on a protest in support of gun control after a shooter killed six at a Nashville school.

For a Republican Party that didn't even bother to write an actual platform in 2020, Americans can clearly see a de facto one: Its planks are antiabortion extremism, pro-gun absolutism, anti-LGBTQ activism, book banning, vote suppression and election denialism. That's not a winning mix.

Most Republican leaders aren't stupid; they recognize their political peril in swing states and national elections, if only privately. Pollsters and consultants are warning them. As Sarah Longwell, who conducts focus groups of Republican voters, told Politico, "The gap between what base voters demand ... and what swing voters are up for has gotten very wide."

Which suggests just one explanation for Republicans' not only staying the course, but also doubling down on issues unpopular with just about everyone other than their base: They have a death wish.

That's bad not just for the no-longer-Grand Old Party's future. It's also bad for the rest of us—the country needs two sound political parties to sustain democracy.

Let's start at the party's bottom, because it's the radicalized Republican base, turbocharged by Donald Trump, that is the tail wagging this dog. For all of Republicans' apparent power, party leaders at the local, state and federal levels seem unable to stand up to the wrathful Trump and his loyal voters who push them to such extremes.

Local school boards have been taken over by conservative parents and groups intent on banning books that offend their finely tuned sensibilities on race, sexuality and U.S. history. Last month, in what Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis unironically calls the Free State of Florida, a high school yanked a graphic novel of Anne Frank's diary. But why go book by book? In the Missouri House, the Republican supermajority just voted to defund all of the state's libraries.

Given this right-wing jihad, the nation is on pace to break the sad record set in 2022 when, according to the American Library Assn., there were nearly 1,300 demands to censor library books and materials. That was the most since the group began collecting data 20-plus years ago.

Meanwhile, at local election offices, the nonpartisan adminis-

By **JACKIE CALMES**

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



trators who do the grunt work of democracy are quitting or being pushed out under the pressure of Trump-inspired conspiracists. In a Virginia county, the entire election staff resigned in frustration over the baseless vote-fraud claims of the newly Republican-controlled board. Perversely, six red states—Florida, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Alabama and Louisiana—have lately left a multistate coalition organized to protect against fraud, after right-wing media falsely alleged that it fostered Democratic vote-rigging.

Those six states are among the 20 where Republicans have veto-proof supermajority legislatures—virtually unchecked power—and they choose to spend their time on such burning, base-pleasing issues as outlawing drag shows and medical care for transgender people, looking for new ways to restrict votes in Democratic areas and gerrymandering political districts. (In nine states, including California, Democrats have supermajorities in the state legislatures—and, yes, they're vulnerable to overreaching too.)

In Congress, Republicans are far from a supermajority in the House, but they nonetheless behave as though they have superpowers beyond anything the Constitution confers.

Led by Rep. Jim Jordan, the performative Republican from Ohio, Trump allies who wouldn't comply with subpoenas to testify about the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection are now sending subpoenas right and left, trying to prove specious claims about Democrats' "weaponization" of government. They're seeking to interfere in the ongoing criminal case against their master, Trump, for his alleged preelection payoff of a porn star. On Tuesday, the district attorney in that New York state case, Alvin L. Bragg Jr., sued to stop a "brazen and unconstitutional attack."

The audacity of hyperpartisanship extends even into the supposedly nonpartisan judiciary. Right-wing plaintiffs brazenly shop for friendly judges, so you have outrages like the openly antiabortion Trump judge in Texas who did just what he was picked to do: overturn the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 23-year-old approval of mifepristone, a drug used for more than half of U.S. abortions.

Then there's the Supreme Court. With its corruptly engineered supermajority of six Republican-appointed justices, it defies public opinion and precedents to reach obvious right-wing ends. Jus-

See **WHY** on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Does AI mean the 4-day workweek is almost here?

I'd like to work four days a week instead of five. Wouldn't you? I'd take Fridays off. The way I imagine it, it'd be just a few years from now. A robot in a butler's uniform would serve us drinks in the backyard on what used to be just another work-day. I'd toss a ball around with the kids while ChatGPT did their homework for them.

Who says the world is going to hell and the future is bleak? Artificial intelligence, advanced robotics and job automation hold out the hope of less work, more leisure and long weekends every weekend.

That's the view, anyway, of Christopher Pissarides, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in economics and believes that thanks to AI and automation, society "could move to a four-day week easily."

He said it in an article that appeared in the L.A. Times last week. "They could take away a lot of boring things that we do at work... and then leave only the interesting stuff to human beings," he added.

Pissarides has written that automation gets a "bad rap" and that we should "embrace AI and automation without hesitation" while helping workers make the transition to the new economy.

It'd be great if he's right that productivity gains and increases in efficiency will be reinvested, spurring new innovations, creating new jobs and industries, and driving economic growth as older, less productive jobs are replaced with "more advanced occupations" and we all get Fridays off with no cut in pay.

But I'm skeptical that it'll happen easily. I realize it's presumptuous of me to question the optimism of a Nobel Prize winner, especially given that I didn't do so good in "Intro to Economics" 45 years ago.

But, with all due respect, count me among those who wonder whether the financial benefits of automation will really be put to use improving workers' well-being—or whether they'll just feed higher profits for shareholders and heftier bonuses for executives, thereby exacerbating income inequality.

Count me among those who worry that employers will work hard to grab most of the savings for themselves unless society forces them not to.

Automation, of one sort or another, is as old as humans are, and fear of losing jobs to machines goes back at least to the textile mills of the Industrial Revolution. Many of us learned in school about the Luddites, a secret organization of disaffected early 19th century English mill workers who went around destroying automated looms and other newfangled machinery they feared would eliminate their jobs or worsen labor conditions.

These days automation is moving faster than ever. A Goldman Sachs report released last month said 300 million jobs worldwide could be "impacted" or "disrupted" thanks to generative AI alone. A report by the McKinsey Global Institute determined that up to half the jobs people do in the world could theoretically be automated.

Already, salespeople are disappearing at my local Rite-Aid because of self-service checkout machines. Parking garage attendants can hardly be found thanks to automatic gates, ticket-dispensing machines and self-paying kiosks. At airports, boarding passes are dispensed by machines. Baggage handlers are being displaced by robots, immigration officers by facial recognition technology.

And do we think those workers are all off enjoying three-day weekends?

By NICHOLAS GOLDBERG
Los Angeles Times

Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



With the extraordinary innovations in AI, automation may soon move beyond blue-collar and less-skilled workers, increasingly affecting so-called "knowledge workers" with college educations. Who's at risk? Think software engineers, tax preparers, copy editors and paralegals. For starters.

Many economists share Pissarides' optimistic view. They note that, historically, when automation has eliminated jobs, new ones offset the losses. Productivity gains drive down prices, which drives up spending and creates jobs. And innovation itself requires workers: Although we no longer employ blacksmiths, we've got auto mechanics, solar panel installers and airline pilots.

One Massachusetts Institute of Technology study found that more than 60% of jobs in the U.S. in 2018 hadn't been invented in 1940.

Furthermore, robots can do jobs that are undesirable or highly dangerous or require superhuman strength and stamina. In many cases, robots are faster, stronger, more accurate and more efficient than people.

So there are definitely benefits to automation. But the challenge is to ensure they're spread around.

MIT economist Daron Acemoglu says that over the last four decades, jobs lost to automation have not been replaced by an equal number of new ones. Since the late 1980s, he says, automation has increased income inequality rather than raising all boats.

The real beneficiaries of automation during that period? Corporations, their owners and in some cases workers with very high skill levels, especially those with postgraduate degrees.

"The case that workers will benefit from mass-scale automation is pretty weak," Acemoglu told me. "The evidence indicates that the productivity gains from automation of the last four decades have been largely captured by companies and managers."

Now I'm not suggesting we should—or could—stop innovation or halt progress.

But to mitigate the enormous disruption, the transition cannot be left entirely to the caprice of employers. Automation's benefits must not simply be dispatched directly into the pockets of the Jeff Bezoses and Elon Musks of the world.

Pissarides urges the government to provide income and job-transition support to workers.

Harry J. Holzer, a public policy professor at Georgetown University, calls for tax incentives and subsidies for "good job" creation. K-12 education, he says, should be retooled to prepare 21st century workers with the communication skills, critical thinking abilities, creativity and good judgment that will be valuable and marketable in the new economy.

Too often in history, society has left workers to fend for themselves in times of dramatic economic change. Is government committed, this time, to ensuring it doesn't happen again?

Like everyone else, I'm eager for my four-day workweek. But I don't kid myself that it'll happen on its own thanks to the generosity of the modern-day mill owners. It'll take a fight.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month: Part II

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, Inc. has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to "increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma, and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues."

Denial of being an alcoholic is commonplace. The alcoholic will deny it for years. Families will deny that other family members are alcoholic or have serious drinking-related problems. Many times the alcoholic will have friends or family members who enable them. An enabler, or codependent, is someone who helps a person with substance abuse issues continue to use drugs and/or alcohol. I come from three generations of alcohol abusers. My grandfather, father, myself, and my siblings have suffered from and continue to suffer from alcohol problems.

These three poems on drinking are my way of communicating about alcohol awareness.

Turning a Page on Alcohol (First published in the Saipan Tribune on Oct. 21, 2022)

The first time you got drunk what was your age
If you looked at yourself what was your image
Were you with your friends at a teenage stage
Is that when you began regular alcohol usage
Did you grow older drinking more and more
Always having some more booze in storage
Always driving to the cheapest liquor store
With a few cases of beer still in your garage
You got a beer belly now, a tiger in your tank
Vomiting and blacking out every now and then
Waking up with a headache your mind a blank
Not a sober day since you can't remember when

Have you had enough booze at your present age
Thinking about saying no and turning the page.

Drunk Drunk Drinking Rap (04/12/2023)

Here are the last four lines of a haunting, beautiful Irish ballad called Carrickfergus. The song, which has been recorded many times, was my inspiration for the following sonnet rap:

"I'm drunk today and I'm rarely sober
A handsome rover from town to town.
Oh but I am sick now and my days are numbered
Come all ye young men and lay me down."

Drunk too much – Don't know why
It wasn't a chore – Easily done
Lost my touch – With reality
Will drink no more – Not much fun

Drunk again the next day – What can I say
For no reason but fun – With friends galore
The buzz went away – What cost did I pay
Before I was done – Boozed up for sure

Drinking all day long – On into the night
What is that all about – Just can't seem to stop
Singing some old song – Can't get words right
Remember blacking out – Puking no doubt

I'm drunk drank too much – Its nothing new
Drinking heavy losing touch – More often and you?

The Old Sot and The Old Sod (an Irish American reverie)

If I should pass out think but this of me
that there's a small corner of this old pub
that is forever Ireland and will surely be
a place you can eat some decent pub grub
outside is Ireland the sot dreams aware
he's back there in his drunken present state
tasting Irish cheese and eating Irish fare
beer washes down a corned beef cabbage plate
he'll have one more pint drink it right away
a drop now of Tullamore Dew no less
takes him back his thought by Ireland given
earphones sing harps and elbow pipes today
his heart at peace now in Irish heaven.

(Revised. Original was first published in the Saipan Tribune on March 16, 2018.)

WHY From Page 8

tice Clarence Thomas, meanwhile, snubs his nose at ethical constraints most of us understand intuitively. As we learned thanks to ProPublica, he vacationed for years on a Republican billionaire's many, many dimes and neglected to disclose that the billionaire had purchased property from him as well.

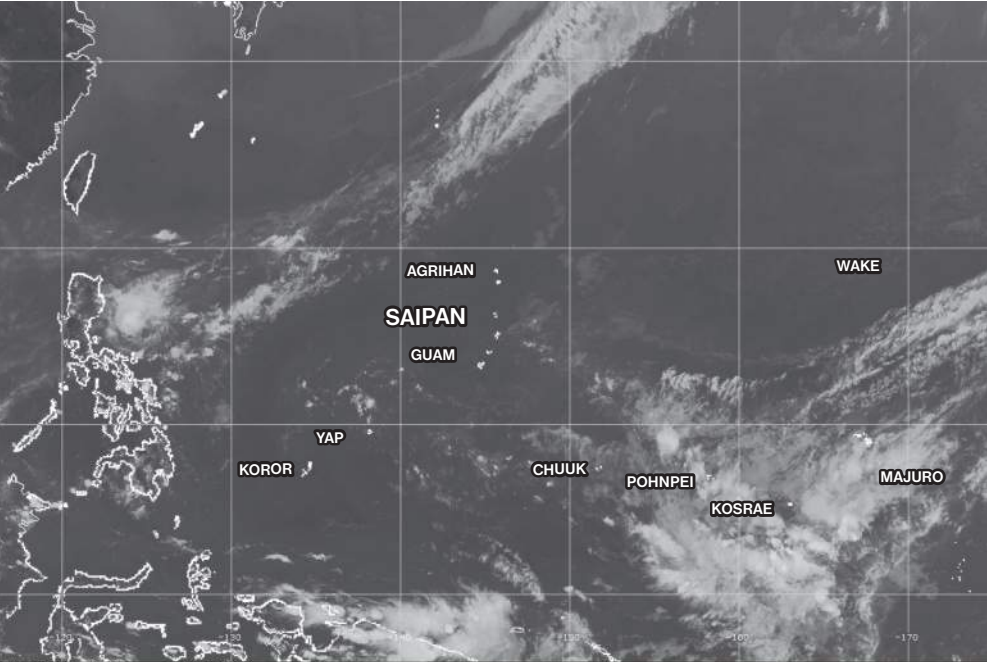
Now court change is a motivating issue for Democrats, much as it was for Republican voters for decades.

For all of this, the 2024 elections hold opportunities for Republicans from the White House and Senate on down—but for their death-wish devotion to power grabs, forced pregnancy, guns and Trump.

Instead of living out Lord Acton's wisdom, I'd recommend Republicans take this advice from a good ol' American, Will Rogers: "If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	78°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:54 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed only isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East trade-winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:30 AM	4:47 PM	-
Wednesday	5:11 AM	5:42 PM	-
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:38 PM	-
Friday	6:32 AM	7:34 PM	-
Saturday	7:16 AM	8:31 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	83° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	80° / 76°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
London	Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°	
New York	Rain	61° / 46°	
Osaka	Showers	70° / 50°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	63° / 49°	
Busan	Rain/Thunder/Wind	67° / 58°	
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°	
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	56° / 46°	
Seoul	Rain	66° / 47°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:00 AM	High Tide	0.20	
6:28 AM	Low Tide	2.02	
12:47 PM	High Tide	0.56	
6:33 PM	Low Tide	1.91	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 16, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 4, 5, 7	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW9308	3:45AM	7:30AM	4, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW9307	9:00PM	2:45AM+1	3, 6
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Savory Bistro Cafe opens along Middle Road

By **MARK RABAGO**

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Savory Bistro Cafe has risen from the ashes of the old Savory Café and Bistro with the new Middle Road location bigger and better than the previous one along Beach Road.

Owner Jennifer Elayda said the rechristened Savory Bistro Cafe opened just this month, adding that they're happy to have a new place to call home.

"We moved because the space before was already small for us. We're lucky because we found this building," she said during the new location's ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony last Thursday.

And when Elayda said the new and improved Savory Bistro Cafe has more space, she's not kidding as it has seating for over 100 customers and three VIP rooms where people who want more privacy can use the Karaoke machine and order food from their kitchen to their hearts' content.

Savory Bistro Cafe also comes with a bigger stage, which means more room for entertainment numbers like the various singing competitions the restaurant has pioneered this past few years.

Elayda added that aside from more than doubling the space of the old location, the new Savory Bistro Cafe also has more parking and is centrally located along Middle Road in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO

From left, Savory Bistro Cafe owners Jennifer and Miguel Elayda, Father Rey Rosal, and former representative Angel Demapan led the ribbon-cutting of the relocated cafe and restaurant last Thursday.

She's also proud to say that despite moving to a new location, Savory Bistro Cafe's prices for its bestselling American, Japanese, Filipino, and Korean menu have not increased and that comes even as the price of ingredients and generally the cost of doing business have gone up.

For future plans, Savory Bistro Cafe will be holding the Savory Singing Mom Contest in time for next month's Mother's Day celebration.



MARK RABAGO

Savory Cafe & Bistro is located beside Pacific Quick Print along Middle Road in Garapan.



MARK RABAGO

Savory's Search For Karaoke Star Season 2 Top 3 winners, from left, first runner-up Raniel Santos, champion Alfred Tabora, and second runner-up Brent Michael performed after the ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony.



MARK RABAGO

Savory Bistro Cafe staff also did a dance number to the delight of everyone in attendance.

The competition is open to all mothers and will be every Saturday starting at 8pm. The winner will take home \$300, while first and second runners-up pocket \$150 and \$100, respectively.

Elayda also said Savory Bistro Cafe will also be offering a Sunday buffet soon.

Aside from Savory Bistro Cafe, the building will also house Elayda and her husband Miguel's construction company, manpower agency, and cleaning services.

As for last week's ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony, the restaurant and cafe was jam-packed with guests led by Father Ray Rosal, who sprinkled holy water around the premises; and former representative Angel Demapan, who was a judge of the last Savory's Search For Karaoke Star Season 2.

And speaking of that competition, guests of the grand opening were serenaded by the Top 3 winners—champion Alfred Tabora, Raniel Santos, and Brent Michael—who performed a medley of songs with the most touching being their version of Michael Jackson's "Heal the World."

Even staff of Savory Bistro Cafe took the stage with an exciting dance number, complete with their serving trays.

Savory Cafe & Bistro is located beside Pacific Quick Print along Middle Road in Garapan. They are open from 10am to 2pm and 5pm and 10pm everyday. For more information or for reservations, call (670-233-6143). You can also message them through Facebook.

New push on US-run free electronic tax-filing system for all

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's that time of year when throngs of taxpayers are buckling down to file their income tax returns before Tuesday's filing deadline. Many often pay to use software from private companies such as Intuit and H&R Block.

Almost one-quarter of Americans wait until the last minute to file their taxes.

There could be a new, free option in future years. The IRS has been tasked with looking into how to create a government-operated electronic free-file tax return system for all. But that doesn't sit well with the big tax-prep companies.

The idea has been battled around and hotly debated for a long time. Congress now has directed the IRS to

report in on how such a system might work.

The order came as part of the \$80 billion infusion of money for the tax agency over the next 10 years under the Democrats' flagship climate and health care measure, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, that President Joe Biden signed last summer. It gave the IRS nine months and \$15 million to report in on how it might implement such a program and how much it would cost.

Next month, the IRS will release the first in a series of reports looking into how it might be done.

The possibility of an electronic free-file system operated by Washington is being celebrated by some taxpayer advocates who for years have

said that would reflect good governance and well serve taxpayers. Critics voice skepticism about the IRS taking on the dual roles of both tax collector and tax preparer, arguing that the new service could create a power imbalance between taxpayers and the government.

Robert Marvin, an IRS spokesperson, said in an email that a key goal of the study is to "look for ways to make filing taxes as easy as possible."

"It's important that Americans have choices that work best for them when preparing their taxes, whether it's by using a tax professional, tax software or free options," he said.

But big tax preparation companies have millions of dollars to lose if the program comes to fruition. Last year,

more than 60 million taxpayers were serviced between Intuit, the parent company of TurboTax, and H&R Block.

Tens of millions of dollars have been spent trying to influence policymakers on the issue, and lobbying data shows that the big tax companies in particular have spent heavily.

An analysis shows that Intuit, H&R Block, and other private companies and advocacy groups for large tax preparation businesses, as well as proponents in favor of electronic free file, have reported spending \$39.3 million since 2006 to lobby on "free-file" and other matters. Federal law doesn't require domestic lobbyists to itemize expenses by specific issue, so the sums are not limited to free-file.

Nation

Progressives focus on local-level wins to counter setbacks

CHICAGO (AP)—For many progressives, the past decade has been littered with disappointments. But recent down-ballot victories are providing hope of reshaping the Democratic Party from the bottom up, rather than from Washington.

In Chicago earlier this month, a former teacher's union organizer unexpectedly won the mayor's race. In St. Louis, progressives secured a majority on the municipal board. The next opportunities could lie in Philadelphia and Houston, which also hold mayoral elections this year.

The focus on lower-level contests already has helped progressives gain power and influence policy at a local level, organizers say, shaping issues such as the minimum wage. It also may help the movement find future stars, with today's city and county officials becoming tomorrow's breakout members of Congress and only moving further up the political ladder.

"Progressives have taken a look at how to be strategic and how to build power," said Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants who was a leading national voice for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 and 2020 presidential bids. "If you look around and



Multiple agencies arrive at a building after a shooting took place in Louisville, Ky., Monday, April 10, 2023.

you say, 'Who is ready to run for president?' If your field is shallow, what do you have to do? You've got to build the bench."

This year's focus on state and local races follows years of incremental progress and some stinging setbacks. Sanders electrified the left with 2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns that centered on bold calls for universal, government-funded health care. But he lost each time to rivals

aligned with the Democratic establishment who advocated for a more cautious approach.

On Capitol Hill, progressive candidates successfully defeated several high-profile incumbents during the 2018 midterms and the election of candidates like New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. But from New York to Michigan and Ohio and Texas, prominent progressives were defeated during primary campaigns last year. And, as

President Joe Biden now gears up for reelection, he faces no serious challenge from the left.

Still, Sanders and others have left their mark, pushing mainstream Democrats to the left on key issues like combating climate change and forgiveness of student loan debt while inspiring some of those at the forefront of today's movement.

That includes Chicago Mayor-elect Brandon Johnson, who appealed to a diverse and young electorate as he campaigned with Sanders and other top congressional progressives.

"Let's take this bold pro-

gressive movement around these United States of America," Johnson said in his victory speech.

Our Revolution, an activist group which grew out of Sanders' 2016 White House bid, endorsed Johnson and progressive candidates who recently won three of four seats on the St. Louis City Board of Aldermen. That gave progressives a slim majority in a city where the mayor, Tishaura Jones, is also a self-described progressive.

Our Revolution said it activated its 90,000 members in

Chicago an average of three times each to urge them to vote for Johnson, and made 100,000 phone calls in St. Louis. The group is also backing Helen Gym, a progressive former Philadelphia City Council member who is among roughly a dozen candidates competing in next month's Democratic mayoral primary.

"When we win on the ground in our cities, that's actually the blueprint, because we cannot wait for Congress," Gym said during a recent call with Our Revolution volunteers.

Our Revolution's executive director, Joseph Geevarghese, said local progressive organizing, including for races like school board, is more effective now than it has been in decades.

"We're building power, bottom up, city by city," Geevarghese said, adding that "in major metropolitan areas you've got credible progressive slates vying for power against the Democratic establishment."

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers and a Democratic National Committee member, countered that there doesn't have to be tension between the party's left and moderate wings. She said Johnson called for addressing "quality of life issues" such as homelessness through consensus-building, rather than ideological confrontation.

GOP leader McConnell returning to Senate after head injury

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell will be back at work in the U.S. Capitol on Monday, almost six weeks after a fall at a Washington-area hotel and extended treatment for a concussion.

The longtime Kentucky senator, 81, has been recovering at home since he was released from a rehabilitation facility March 25. He fell after attending an event earlier that month, injuring his head and fracturing a rib.

He visited his office Friday, the first time since his injury, and is expected to be working a full schedule in the Senate this week.

"I am looking forward to returning to the Senate on Monday," McConnell tweeted on Thursday. "We've got important business to tackle and big fights to win for Kentuckians and the American people."

McConnell returns to the Senate ahead of a busy stretch in which Congress will have to find a way to raise the nation's debt ceiling and negotiate additional aid for the Ukraine war, among other policy matters. And he comes back as several other senators have been out for medical reasons, raising questions about how much the Senate will be

able to achieve in the coming months with a 51-49 split between the parties.

Already, the GOP leader's absence, along with those of Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein and John Fetterman, among others, have added to the Senate's lethargic pace in the first few months of the year. Unlike the last two years, in which Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was able to push through key elements of President Joe Biden's agenda with the help of a Democratic-led House, the Senate has been significantly slowed with Republicans now in charge in the House. And absences have made even simple votes like nominations more difficult.

One immediate question for McConnell upon his return is whether to help Democrats temporarily replace Feinstein on the Senate Judiciary Committee as she continues to recover in California from a case of the shingles. Democrats have become increasingly frustrated as the Democrat's more than six-week absence on the panel has stalled confirmation of some of Biden's nominees, and Feinstein has asked for a short-term substitute on

the committee.

Democrats can't do that, though, without help from Republicans, since approval of the process would take 60 votes on the Senate floor. Republicans have so far been quiet about whether they will object.

It is unclear when Feinstein, 89, will return to Washington. Her office has so far declined to say.

Also returning to the Senate on Monday is Fetterman, who was hospitalized for clinical depression in February. He was treated for six weeks at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and his doctors say his depression is now "in remission."

Fetterman's announcement that he was checking himself into the hospital earlier this year came after he suffered a stroke last year and has struggled with auditory processing disorder, which can render someone unable to speak fluidly and quickly process spoken conversation into meaning. The Pennsylvania Democrat, 53, now uses devices in conversations, meetings and congressional hearings that transcribe spoken words in real time.

ACROSS THE NATION

Shooting at Alabama birthday party kills 4 people, wounds 28

DADEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Alabama law enforcement officers Sunday were imploring people to come forward with information about a shooting that killed four people and injured 28 others during a teenager's birthday party. Among those killed was a high school senior who planned to play college football and was celebrating his sister's 16th birthday. The shooting erupted Saturday night at a dance studio in downtown Dadeville. During two news conferences Sunday, Sgt. Jeremy Burkett of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency did not take questions. He did not say if a suspect was in custody or if investigators knew about any motivation. He did not provide the names of those killed. "We've got to have information from the community," Burkett said during a Sunday evening news conference. Philstavius "Phil" Dowdell, a Dadeville High School senior who had committed to Jacksonville State University, was celebrating at his sister Alexis' party before he was shot to death, his grand-

mother Annette Allen told the Montgomery Advertiser.

Pennsylvania university shooting wounds 2 women

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, Pa. (AP)—Two women were wounded by a gunshot during a spring event at a university in southeastern Pennsylvania over the weekend, authorities said.

Lincoln University security officials said the shooting happened at about 10 p.m. Saturday during "Yardfest," an annual spring event at the Chester County campus near Oxford that prosecutors said was attended by several thousand people. University officials said neither victim was a Lincoln student. County prosecutors said one woman was sitting on a bench seat in a second-floor hallway of a university building and the other woman was standing nearby in the hallway, which was crowded with hundreds of people. Both heard a single gunshot and the crowd began running. The victim who was standing recalled feeling pain in her thigh, saw she had been shot and brushed a copper jacket from a bullet off her leg.

Eastern Oregon police officer shot, killed; suspect sought

NYSSA, Ore. (AP)—Authorities were looking for a man they believe shot and killed an eastern Oregon reserve police officer.

Nyssa officer Joseph Johnson, 43, died Saturday night after a man he had pursued in a car shot at him. The man fled and Johnson was dead when sheriff's officers and medical workers arrived, The Oregonian reported. Johnson had been responding to reports the man was making threats and damaging property, the Malheur County District Attorney's office said in a statement Sunday. Nyssa, population 3,200, is near the Idaho state line about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Boise, Idaho. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek ordered flags at public institutions to be flown at half-mast until sundown Monday in honor of Johnson. "This is an absolute tragedy," she said in a statement. "Officer Johnson's service and dedication to his community and our state will not be forgotten." Johnson is survived by a wife and two children.

Asia

G-7 diplomats reject Chinese, N. Korean, Russian aggression

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AP)—Top diplomats from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies are vowing a tough stance on China's increasing threats to Taiwan and on North Korea's unchecked tests of long-range missiles, while building momentum on ways to boost support for Ukraine and punish Russia for its invasion.

Russia's war in Ukraine will consume much of the agenda Monday as the envoys gather in this Japanese hot spring resort town for Day Two of talks meant to pave the way for action by G-7 leaders when they meet next month in Hiroshima.

The world is at "turning point" on the fighting in Ukraine and must "firmly reject unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, and Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its threats of the use of nuclear weapons," Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told his colleagues, according to a Japanese summary.

For the American delegation, the meeting comes at a crucial moment in the world's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and efforts to deal with China, two issues that G-7 ministers from Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and the European Union regard as potent

challenges to the post-World War II rules-based international order.

A senior U.S. official traveling with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters that the Biden administration's goal for the talks is to shore up support for Ukraine, including a major initiative on Ukraine's energy infrastructure launched at last year's G-7 gatherings in Germany, as well as to ensure the continued provision of military assistance to Kyiv. Ramping up punishment against Russia for the conflict, particularly through economic and financial sanctions that were first threatened by the G-7 in December 2021, before the invasion, will also be a priority, the official said.

Ukraine faces an important moment in coming weeks with Russia's current offensive largely stalled and Ukraine preparing a counter-offensive. The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Blinken's priorities at the closed-door meetings, said there would be discussion about ways to deepen support for Ukraine's long-term defense and deterrence capabilities. That might also improve Kyiv's position for potential negotiations that could end the conflict on its terms.

The role of Japan—the only Asian member of the G-7—as chairman of this year's

talks provides an opportunity to discuss coordinated action on China. Leaders and foreign ministers of G-7 countries, most recently France and Germany, have recently concluded visits to China, and the diplomats in Karuizawa are expected to discuss their impressions of where the Chinese stand on numerous issues, including the war in Ukraine, North Korea, and Taiwan, which is a particular sore point in U.S.-Chinese relations.

At a private working dinner on Sunday night that was the diplomats' first formal meeting, Hayashi urged continued dialogue with China on the many global challenges where participation from Beijing is seen as crucial. Among the Chinese interests that are intertwined with those of wealthy democracies are global trade, finance and climate efforts.

But the diplomats are also looking to address China's more aggressive recent stance in Northeast Asia, where it has threatened Taiwan, the self-governing democracy that Beijing claims as its own.

Hayashi told ministers that outside nations must continue "building a constructive and stable relationship, while also directly expressing our concerns and calling for China to act as a responsible member of the international community," according to a summary of the closed-door dinner.

ing island and their foreign supporters. China protested the transit Monday, saying the U.S. transit was a "public hype" and that the Eastern Theater Command was ready at any time to "resolutely safeguard the country's sovereignty, safety, and regional peace and stability," according to a statement from the Eastern Theater Command's spokesperson Shi Yilu.

US, allies conduct more drills in face of N. Korean threat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States, South Korea and Japan will conduct a joint missile defense exercise Monday in waters near the Korean Peninsula as they expand military training to counter the growing threats of North Korea's nuclear-capable missiles, the South Korean navy said. Last week, North Korea conducted one of its most provocative

weapons demonstrations in years by flight-testing for the first time an intercontinental ballistic missile powered by solid propellants, as it pursues a weapon that's more responsive, harder to detect and could directly target the continental United States. North Korea's unprecedented run of weapons tests has so far involved more than 100 missiles of various ranges fired into the sea since the start of 2022 as the country attempts to build a viable nuclear arsenal that could threaten its rival neighbors and the United States. The exercises Monday may trigger a belligerent response from North Korea, which condemns the United States' military drills with its Asian allies as invasion rehearsals. The North has used those drills as a pretext to accelerate its own weapons development, creating a cycle of tit-for-tat that has raised tensions in recent months.

World

Russia's UN council presidency is most contentious in memory



AP
Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during a joint news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu after their talks, in Ankara, Turkey, Friday, April 7, 2023.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—First the Russians gave the U.N. spotlight to the commissioner of children's rights accused with President Vladimir Putin of war crimes for deporting Ukrainian children to Russia, sparking a walkout by the U.S. and several others.

Then Russia went after the West by claiming it is violating international laws in arming Ukraine, drawing blistering retorts that Ukraine has every right to defend itself against Putin's invading army.

So far, the Russian presidency of the U.N. Security Council has been the most contentious in the memory of longtime U.N. diplomats and officials. And it's just at the midway point.

Dozens killed as army, rivals battle for control of Sudan

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—The Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary group battled for control of the chaos-stricken nation for a second day Sunday, signaling they were unwilling to end hostilities despite mounting diplomatic pressure to cease fire.

Heavy fighting involving armored vehicles, truck-mounted machine guns and war planes raged in the capital of Khartoum, the adjoining city of Omdurman and in flashpoints across the country. The rival forces are believed to have tens of thousands of fighters each in the capital alone.

At least 41 civilians were killed Sunday, bringing the two-day death toll to 97, the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate said Monday. Hundreds of people have been wounded

More fireworks are to come later in the month when Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov presides over the premier event of the presidency—an open council meeting on defending the principles of the U.N. Charter. Russia is widely accused of violating the charter by invading Ukraine and flouting its underpinning principles of respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The presidency of the Security Council rotates monthly in alphabetical order of its 15 members. As Russia's turn approached, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield and European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell both called it an April Fool's joke. The U.S. envoy promised

to "use every opportunity to push back on their using their perch in the chair to spread disinformation, and to use their chair to push support of their efforts."

At the incoming president's traditional first-day news conference, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia pushed back against the April Fool's comments, asking Borrell, "Who's talking?" He said Russia had been "an honest broker" when chairing the council in the past and would try to maintain that approach.

As for U.S. claims Russia would spread disinformation about Ukraine, Nebenzia dismissed it as part of "the Western narrative."

"We think just the opposite," he said.

since fighting started Saturday, the group said. In addition, dozens of fighters are believed to have been killed, according to the group.

The clashes are part of a power struggle between Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the commander of the armed forces, and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the Rapid Support Forces group. The two generals are former allies who jointly orchestrated an October 2021 military coup that derailed Sudan's short-lived transition to democracy.

In recent months, internationally backed negotiations revived hopes for such a transition, but growing tensions between Burhan and Dagalo eventually delayed a deal with political parties.

Volker Perthes, the U.N.

envoy for Sudan, said that both Burhan and Dagalo agreed to a three-hour humanitarian pause in fighting in the late afternoon Sunday, but violence continued to engulf the capital.

As night fell, residents reported heavy explosions and continued gunfire, as well as airstrikes pounding RSF targets. The clashes come as most Sudanese are preparing to celebrate the holiday that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims traditionally fast from sunrise to sunset.

Fighting raged around the military's headquarters throughout the day. "Heavy explosions and gunfire around the clock," said Amany Sayed, a 38-year-old Khartoum resident. "The battles here (in the capital) never stopped."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US sails warship through Taiwan Strait after China's drills

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The United States Navy has sailed a warship through the Taiwan Strait in its first known transit since China carried out an encirclement exercise around self-ruled Taiwan. The U.S. 7th Fleet said the transit through the strait by the USS Milius on Sunday was routine. The cruisers "transited through a corridor in the Strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal State," the statement said. Last week China concluded large-scale air and sea drills in the strait in retaliation for Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on April 5 in California. China said Wednesday that the exercises simulating an encirclement of Taiwan were intended as a "serious warning" to pro-independence politicians on the self-govern-

Overdrive

A new Toyota hybrid SUV that won't break the bank



NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price:** \$27,970
- **Engine:** 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine and electric motors
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 196/152 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 45/48 mpg
- **Observed fuel economy:** 39 mpg
- **Length/Width/Height:** 176.8/71.9/64.8 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 8.1 inches
- **Payload:** 1,215 pounds
- **Cargo capacity:** 21.5-61.8 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity:** 1,500 pounds

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

You have to admire former Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda's attempt to instill excitement into Toyota's many cars, trucks and SUVs. Yet you can't help wondering if the command to instill life into its vehicles isn't working against the brand's DNA. Toyotas have long been like the decades-old Holiday Inn advertising slogan: The best surprise is no surprise.

Traditionally, Toyotas are well-built, reliable, and economical. They are reasonably, but not outra-

geously, styled. Personality? Not so much. But the marque's many fans aren't looking for that; they are looking for a transportation appliance. And Toyota grew to the top of the heap by building just that, for the most part, and it is masterful at pleasing this constituency. And there's nothing wrong with that. But lately, many of the models seem to be trying too hard to be exciting, like your aging uncle trying to trend on TikTok.

So it's a relief to drive the 2023 Toyota Corolla Cross Hybrid, a fuel-sipping variant of the Corolla Cross crossover SUV.

Like its conventionally

powered sibling, and unlike some other Hybrids in the Toyota lineup, the 2023 Toyota Corolla Cross Hybrid is not an object of emotion or passion.

Consider its face. Unlike the belligerent look of other Toyotas, its simple frowning countenance is a relief. There's an air of modesty to this box. You'll note a distinct lack of flashiness here, except for a metallic trim piece that starts at the base of the windshield and runs along the side of the vehicle. Opting for the SE or XSE instead of the base S trim brings privacy glass and roof rails. And being a Corolla, it's 5 inches shorter than the Toyota RAV4,

coming in at a city-friendly 176.8 inches long.

As with the Corolla sedan, you'll find the front seat space satisfactory, but rear seat legroom is more dear and dependent on the kindness of those up front. But cargo space is generous for the vehicle's size, at 21.5 cubic feet, expanding to 61.8 cubic feet with the rear seats folded.

And yes, there's lots of durable, hard plastic. But the instrument panel boasts a similar design to its sedan siblings, including an 8-inch touchscreen and all the conveniences you need for your modern tech life, including Toyota's new easy-to-use multime-

dia system with wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and USB-C charge ports. And its standard 4G AT&T hotspot can handle up to five devices. For most younger drivers, this is the only performance that matters.

But if you're concerned about the other kind, you won't be surprised by the fact that it this performs exactly as you'd expect a Toyota to perform. It doesn't try to be something it's not. The gas engine's noise is subdued until asked for more power. Then it wails forcefully as the transmission unenthusiastically releases more power. Throttle response

feels spongy at times.

In other words, it performs like a typical economy car. And it returned a wallet-friendly 39 mpg in mixed driving.

Road and tire noise are audible but not excessive. Cornering causes body lean as you might anticipate, but body motions over bumps are nicely managed, with significant bumps carrying through to the cabin. Although the steering is light with some play on center, there is a touch of road feel.

It's a practical, economical robust little buggy that's built to serve. Its lack of glamor is its glamor. That makes it the archetypal Corolla SUV.

Life & Style

‘The Phantom of the Opera’ closes on Broadway after 35 years

NEW YORK (AP)—The final curtain came down Sunday on New York’s production of “The Phantom of the Opera,” ending Broadway’s longest-running show with thunderous standing ovations, champagne toasts and gold and silver confetti bursting from its famous chandelier.

It was show No. 13,981 at the Majestic Theatre and it ended with a reprise of “The Music of the Night” performed by the current cast, previous actors in the show—including original star Sarah Brightman—and crew members in street clothes.

Andrew Lloyd Webber took to the stage last in a black suit and black tie and dedicated the final show to his son, Nick, who died last month after a protract-

ed battle with gastric cancer and pneumonia. He was 43.

“When he was a little boy, he heard some of this music,” Lloyd Webber said. Brightman, holding his hand, agreed: “When Andrew was writing it, he was right there. So his son is with us. Nick, we love you very much.”

Producer Cameron Mackintosh gave some in the crowd hope they would see the Phantom again, and perhaps sooner than they think.

“The one question I keep getting asked again and again—will the Phantom return? Having been a producer for over 55 years, I’ve seen all the great musicals return, and ‘Phantom’ is one of the greatest,” he said. “So it’s only a matter of time.”

The musical—a fixture on Broadway since opening on Jan. 26, 1988—has weathered recessions, war, terrorism and cultural shifts. But the prolonged pandemic may have been the last straw: It’s a costly musical to sustain, with elaborate sets and costumes as well as a large cast and orchestra. The curtain call Sunday showed how out of step “Phantom” is with the rest of Broadway but also how glorious a big, splashy musical can be.

“If there ever was a bang, we’re going out with a bang. It’s going to be a great night,” said John Riddle just before dashing inside to play Raoul for the final time.

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, “Phantom” tells the sto-

ry of a deformed composer who haunts the Paris Opera House and falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine. Webber’s lavish songs include “Masquerade,” “Angel of Music” and “All I Ask of You.”

In addition to Riddle, the New York production said goodbye with Emilie Kouatchou as Christine and Laird Mackintosh stepping in for Ben Crawford as the Phantom. Crawford was unable to sing because of a bacterial infection but was cheered at the curtain call, stepping to the side of the stage. The Phantom waved him over to stand beside him, Riddle and Kouatchou.

There was a video presentation of many of the actors who had played key roles in the

show over the years, and the orchestra seats were crowded with Christines, Raouls and Phantoms. The late director Hal Prince, choreographer Gillian Lynne and set and costume designer Maria Björnson were also honored.

Lin-Manuel Miranda attended, as did Glenn Close, who performed in two separate Broadway productions of Lloyd Webber’s “Sunset Bou-

levard.” Free champagne was offered at intermission and flutes of it were handed out on-stage at the curtain call.

Riddle first saw “The Phantom of the Opera” in Toronto as a 4-year-old child. “It was the first musical I ever saw. I didn’t know what a musical was,” he said. “Now, 30-some odd years later, I’m closing the show on Broadway. So it’s incredible.”

Name-that-tune game Heardle dropped by Spotify after a year

NEW YORK (AP)—Heardle, the name-that-tune game inspired by the Wordle craze, is being dropped by Spotify less than a year after the music-streaming giant acquired it.

“After careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to say goodbye to Heardle,” Spotify said Saturday in a statement. A similar announcement was posted on the Heardle homepage.

First appearing in February 2022 amid a surge of games that used the format of Wordle, which the New York Times bought in January of that year, Heardle plays fleeting moments of a song and challenges users to see how quickly they can guess it. Saturday’s mystery song was (spoiler alert) 1998’s “Why Don’t You Get a Job” by the Offspring.

After Spotify bought Heard-

le in July, users could go from revealing the song to playing it on the app. That sort of music discovery, or rediscovery, was Spotify’s intention in acquiring the game from its creators, according to the blog post announcing the acquisition.

But the statement on the game’s end said Spotify plans to “focus our efforts on other features for music discovery.”

The company did not give

further details on why it was ending the game, and it’s not clear whether Heardle may continue life elsewhere. Spotify did not identify the apparently publicity-shy creator and seller when it announced the purchase.

Variety identified the man as a “London-based web and app designer” in a May 2020 interview, but he declined to be identified further.

Judge delays trial over Fox News and 2020 election lies

NEW YORK (AP)—Without citing a reason, the Delaware judge overseeing a voting machine company’s \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News announced late Sunday that he was delaying the start of the trial until Tuesday.

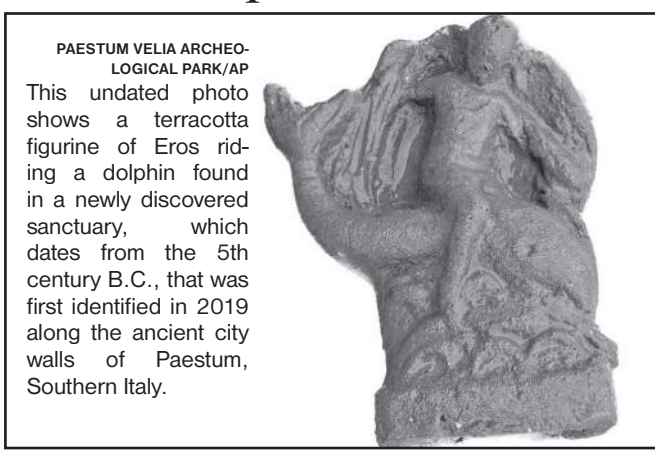
The trial, which has drawn international interest, had been scheduled to start Monday morning with jury selection and opening statements.

The case centers on whether Fox defamed Dominion Voting Systems by spreading false claims that the company

rigged the 2020 presidential election to prevent former President Donald Trump’s reelection. Records produced as part of the lawsuit show that many of the network’s hosts and executives didn’t believe the allegations but aired them, anyway.

Claire Bischoff, a Dominion spokesperson, said the company would have no comment on the trial delay, as did Fox Corp., which is being sued along with Fox News. Representatives of the network did not return a request for comment.

Archeologists in Italy unearth ancient dolphin statue, others



ROME (AP)—Excavations in southern Italy have unearthed terracotta bull heads and a figurine of the Greek god Eros riding a dolphin, shining new light on the religious life and rituals of an ancient city, culture ministry officials said Saturday.

It’s the first trove of artifacts identified from a sanctuary in the ancient Greek city of Paestum, which dates from the 5th century B.C. Paestum, famed for its three massive Doric-columned temples, is near the archaeological site of Pom-

peii, but farther down the Amalfi coast.

The small temple was first identified in 2019 along the ancient city walls but excavations were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Italian Culture Ministry said in a statement.

Excavations yielded several small terracotta figurines in the first months of resuming work, the Ministry said. Archeologists found seven bull heads found around a temple altar as if placed there on the ground in a form of devotion.

Drunk uncle pushes family to the limit of tolerance

DEAR ABBY: My “Uncle Fred” is rude and obnoxious whenever we’re in his presence. He talks down to not only me, but everyone around him. Holidays are unbearable as he creates constant tension, leaving all guests less than enthused. He also drinks too much at parties, which leads to obscenities and poor decision-making.

It would be very easy to just stop being in his presence if not for my darling “Auntie June,” who is kind to us all and always insists on hosting her family for holidays. Even after numerous attempts by family members who have all voiced their displeasure with Uncle Fred, Auntie June seems to be helpless in dealing with his unruly behavior.

How do we move forward without hurting our dear sweet auntie by telling her we no longer wish to spend holidays together?

ENOUGH ALREADY IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ENOUGH: You have suffered enough. A way to deal with it would be to put it “a tad” less bluntly. Say, “Auntie, we love you, which is why we have tolerated Uncle Fred’s drinking and rude behavior as long as we have. But we have reached our limit. From now on, other family members will alternate hosting these gatherings, and if Uncle Fred acts up during any of them, he will have to leave.” It would be better than walking out of Auntie’s home and leaving her with food she has prepared and no one to eat it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m in my early 30s, married and juggling a full-time job and caring for my children, ages 3 and 6. I live in an affluent area where people have more free time than most. When I’m able to squeeze time in for a playdate with local mom friends, I find it annoying when they bring their husbands.

I’m all for double dates, but I feel like a third wheel when they bring their spouses along for playdates. A handful of women do this at every single get-together with the kids. Their husbands don’t need to work as much as mine does. I crave being able to talk freely with other mothers. Even if my husband were available, he wouldn’t want to join, and I wouldn’t want him to, either.

When I invite a woman and her kids to my home, I end up having her husband show up at my door, too. I feel like I’m entertaining their whole family instead of just a simple playdate. Would it be appropriate to tell these moms to leave their husbands at home during our playdates? If so, how do I go about this politely?

CROWDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CROWDED: There is a difference between a family playdate and a mom’s playdate. In the latter, the women usually let their hair down and discuss subjects they might not mention in mixed company. I do not think it would be rude to tell these moms that you prefer they leave their husbands at home.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 68 years old. I have a Gator gas scooter,

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



which I love to ride. My sons think I am too old to be riding it. They think I should sell it. Am I too old to ride a scooter?

UNSURE IN TENNESSEE

DEAR UNSURE: Let me put it this way: Accidents happen and many have nothing to do with age. Google George Clooney, Simon Cowell and Jay Leno, and then make up your mind.

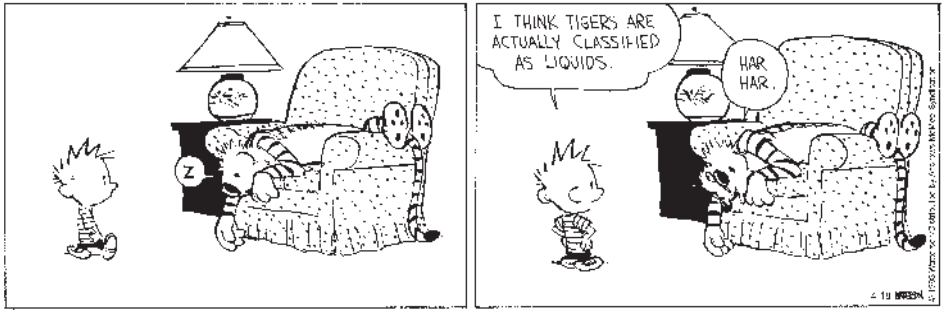
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

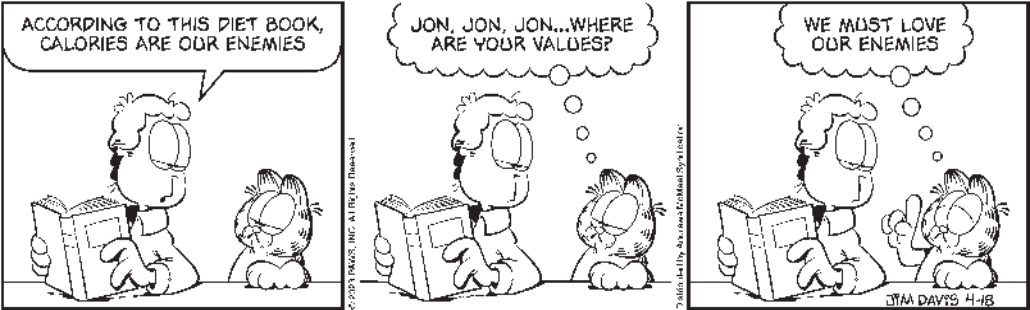
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



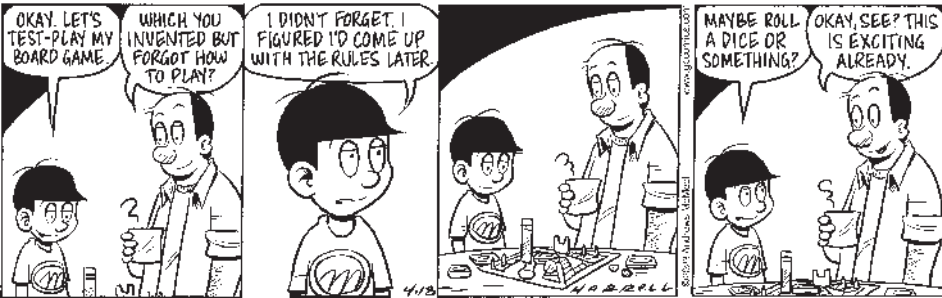
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chapel service
5 Prom rental
8 Garbage barge
12 Rights org.
13 — out a living
14 Hefty horn
15 Spinning sound
16 Snoopy's foe
18 Colorful timber trees
20 Shoelace tip
21 Before
22 SSW opposite
23 Singer Chrissie
26 Macy's logo feature
30 Shoe width
31 Cattle call
32 Right angle
33 Merlot, for one

DOWN

1 Bryn —
2 Rue
3 Lost traction
4 Rode the waves
5 — Haute
6 Guitars' kin
7 Deleted
8 Theater platforms
9 Ringlet
10 Reed instrument
11 Long for
17 Combo
19 Hot temper
22 Prefix with natal
23 That ship

24 "— haw!" (cowboy cry)
25 Com-poser Rorem
26 Fish eggs
27 Earl Grey, e.g.
28 Flight stat
29 "Kid-napped" monogram
31 6 on a phone
34 Belted areas
35 Concept
36 Deity
37 "That's cheating!"
39 Adolescents
40 Spoken
41 Sultry Horne
42 June 6, 1944
43 Some HDTVs
44 Biograp-
45 Tennis score
46 Portal
48 Ref

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 39; Melissa Joan Hart, 47; Conan O'Brien, 60; Jane Leeves, 62.

Happy Birthday: Patience will be necessary if you want to finish things this year. There will be no shortage of good ideas, insight and creative thinking, but emotional angst will take over if you can't settle into a routine that helps you overlook what's happening around you and focus on your goal. Mind over matter will keep you on top of your game. Your numbers are 6, 17, 20, 28, 34, 42, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Determine how to improve your living conditions or arrangements. Take time to handle the matter personally and to allocate how and where your money will have the most significant impact. Reconnecting with an old friend will help you let go of the past. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll do better if you act fast. Assess, define your position and adjust your life to whatever works best for you. Change is favored if you are quick to decide and follow through. Defer to an expert regarding health and money. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Align yourself with people who understand you and offer support and solutions, not criticism. Don't let negativity get you down or hold you back. Let your actions speak for you and your kindness lead the way. Self-improvement will lead to compliments. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If something isn't going your way, head in a direction that makes it easier to reach your destination. Keep matters simple, make your

words count and stay within your budget. Let experience be your guide. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let someone take over or make alterations that don't suit your needs. A Leo's charm, insight and hands-on help will encourage others to see things your way. An emotional issue will give you the strength and courage to make a difference. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Move forward cautiously. Don't put yourself in harm's way or let others put unfair demands on you. The adjustments you make will send a clear message to anyone giving you a difficult time. Don't let work cause a problem for you at home. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have to cover a lot of ground today. Put on your running shoes and head out. Preparation will help considerably, so don't scrimp when it comes to detail. If you love someone, share your intentions and be prepared to make reasonable adjustments. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't share secrets or make changes for the wrong reason. Be creative, and you'll devise a plan far exceeding your expectations. Refuse to let an oversight at home end up costing you too much. Take on only what's feasible. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are heading in the right direction but are not focused on the result. Go back and rethink your motives, and you'll figure out how to achieve your goal. Attending a social event or spending time with someone you love will ease stress. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider changes at home that will make your life easier. Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you don't want or spending more than your budget allows. Keep your thoughts and plans to yourself until you have everything in place and are ready to go. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take nothing for granted, but be ready to take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. There are investments and positions available that can help you zigzag your way to the top. Personal growth, self-improvement and love are favored. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Wear your heart on your sleeve, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Call the shots and do what feels right to you. Avoid events that can lead to health repercussions. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and forceful. You are helpful and possessive.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8	7		1							
5	1		2			4				7
	6	2		9	5	8	3			
3			8			6			4	
						1				
	2						7	3		
1				4		7	6	2		
7			3			5	4			
2	8	4			7	3	1	9		

Difficulty: ★★ 4-18
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	9	4	2	5	7	1	8
1	7	2	3	6	8	9	5	4
8	5	4	9	1	7	6	3	2
7	9	3	8	4	1	5	2	6
2	1	5	7	9	6	4	8	3
6	4	8	5	3	2	1	9	7
4	3	7	2	5	9	8	6	1
9	2	1	6	8	4	3	7	5
5	8	6	1	7	3	2	4	9

Difficulty: ★ 4-17
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ALL ABOUT LUMBER Solution: 5 letters

L	W	O	R	K	S	H	O	P	D	E	H	S	S	A
E	A	D	I	L	O	S	T	R	U	C	T	U	R	E
L	R	D	E	S	I	G	N	S	E	O	P	C	E	S
B	D	U	D	F	A	R	M	D	R	P	H	K	T	T
A	R	H	T	E	I	D	A	A	L	I	N	A	N	A
T	O	C	R	I	R	G	I	T	A	I	D	E	I	
R	B	N	O	A	N	E	E	P	L	R	C	O	P	N
E	E	N	O	A	S	R	E	C	P	S	R	C	O	R
E	N	B	F	Y	S	T	U	S	L	L	O	W	A	L
B	I	S	P	R	U	C	E	F	L	A	O	O	C	O
O	P	O	O	R	S	V	E	N	K	E	C	O	L	F
A	S	U	E	E	W	O	D	N	I	W	N	E	T	F
T	G	L	X	H	S	K	C	O	L	(B)(E)(A)(M)	A			
H	O	O	E	C	N	E	F	O	I	T	A	P	P	C
P	B	O	O	K	S	H	E	L	F	D	E	C	K	S

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Architecture, Beam, Bench, Blocks, Board, Boat, Bookshelf, Boxes, Cabinets, Carpenters, Cedar, Cherry, Decks, Designs, Farm, Fence, Fireplace, Floor, Furniture, Ladder, Oak, Panels, Patio, Pine, Plank, Pole, Post, Roof, Rough, Scaffold, Shed, Solid, Spruce, Stain, Stairs, Storage, Structure, Suppliers, Table, Tools, Tree, Wardrobe, Window, Wood, Workshop
Yesterday's Answer: Object
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Heat rip Bucks 130-117 in Game 1; Giannis, Herro injured



MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks didn't have their best player around for the full game. The Miami Heat did.

That pretty much made the difference Sunday as the top-seeded Bucks saw their path toward a championship face an early obstacle.

Jimmy Butler had 35 points and 11 assists, and the Heat capitalized on Giannis Antetokounmpo's injury to beat the Bucks 130-117 on Sunday in an Eastern Conference playoff opener Sunday. Butler's dazzling performance enabled the Heat to withstand the exit of Tyler Herro, who broke his right hand while diving for a loose ball just before halftime.

"He's just a brilliant competitor," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He does it on both ends of the court. He has an innate feel for what's necessary during the course of a game. We needed obviously some offensive punch, some triggers, something to settle us all down, particularly when we found out Tyler was out. Jimmy was able to do it in a lot of different ways."

Now the Bucks wait to learn how long Antetokounmpo might be out because of a lower back bruise.

Antetokounmpo was driving to the basket with 4:13 left in the first quarter when he got fouled by Kevin Love and landed hard on his backside. The two-time MVP got up slowly, stayed in the game to take his free throws and then headed to the locker room about 2 1/2 minutes later after picking up his second foul.

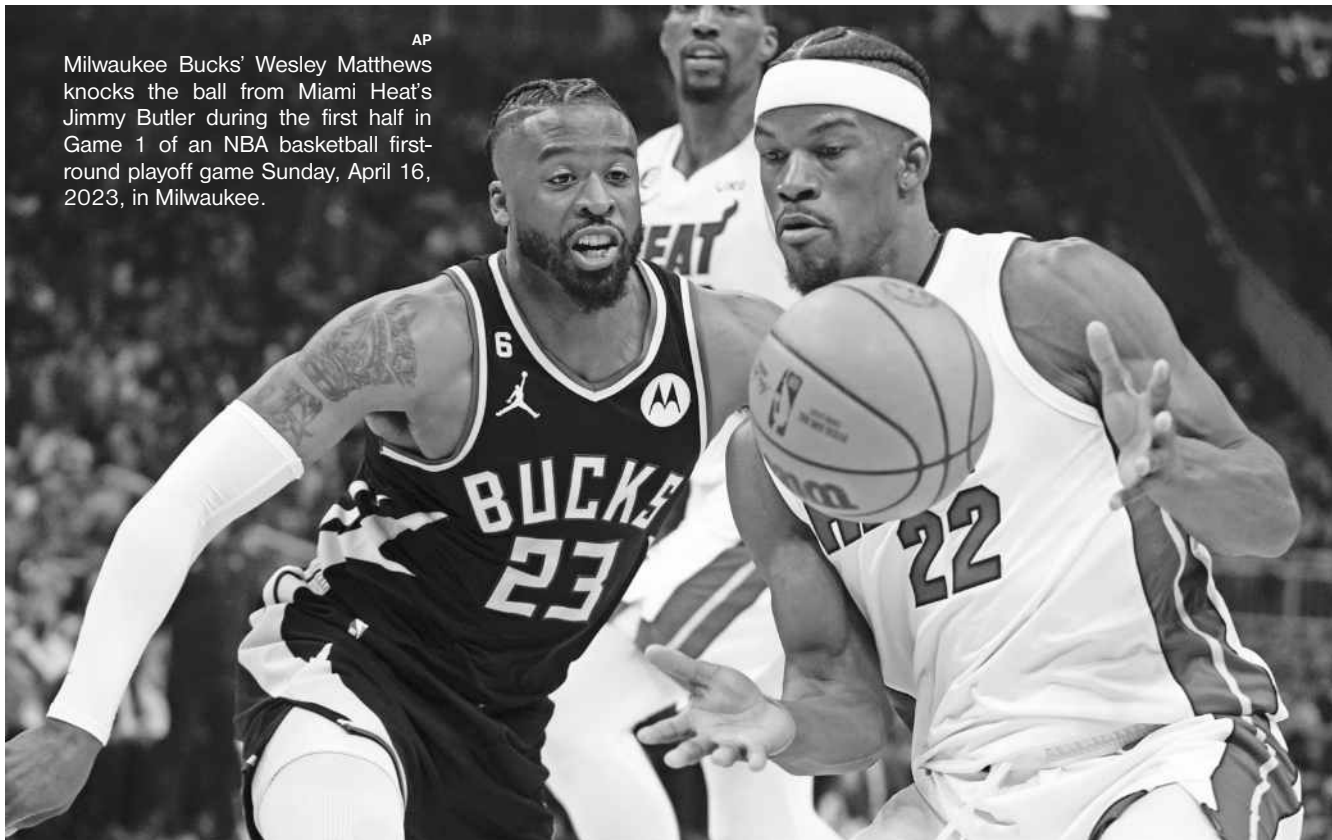
Although he returned to the game with 9:56 remaining in the second quarter, Antetokounmpo went to the locker room again with 8:33 left in the half and was ruled out for the rest of the game shortly afterward.

"There was an X-ray that was clear here," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We'll monitor him and see how he does, see how he wakes up, how he feels the rest of tonight and tomorrow."

The early departures of Antetokounmpo and Herro gave this game an unusual feel and forced both teams to adjust on the fly.

Nobody adapted better than Butler, who shot 15 of 27, leading the way as the Heat set a franchise scoring record for a playoff game and shot 59.5% from the floor.

"I just control what I can control in the end, play basketball the right way, no matter who's out there on the floor on my team or the opposing team," Butler said. "Stay aggressive. Make sure my guys get their shots. Defend as I'm



AP
Milwaukee Bucks' Wesley Matthews knocks the ball from Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler during the first half in Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff game Sunday, April 16, 2023, in Milwaukee.

supposed to defend and do whatever it takes to get my team the win."

The Heat also capitalized on a dramatic advantage from beyond the arc. The Heat were 15 of 25 and the Bucks 11 of 45 from 3-point range.

Bam Adebayo had 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Heat.

Khris Middleton scored 33 points and Bobby Portis had 21 for the Bucks.

Miami seized control of the game early as the Bucks appeared disjointed after a long layoff. None of the Bucks' starters had played since at least April 5, when they won at Chicago to clinch the NBA's best regular-season record and top playoff seed.

The Heat allowed the Bucks to take the lead once — at 4-2.

"They played well," said Milwaukee guard Jrue Holiday, who had 16 points and 16 assists but shot 6 of 18. "They looked like they had a rhythm, attacking the basket, got to the free-throw line a lot. There's a lot of things we need to do, kind of like starting off better."

The Bucks kept trying to make a run, but Butler made sure the Heat answered every time.

"He's arguably the best closer in the game," said Love, who had 18 points and eight rebounds. "It's unbelievable what he's able to do out there. He's our leader. He sets the tone for us. I'm taking him pretty much over anybody in the league when it comes down to closing out a game."

LAKERS 128, GRIZZLIES 121

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Rui Hachimura, LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers made an early statement in the wide-open Western Conference playoffs.

Hachimura scored a playoff career-best 29 points, including 21 in the second half, and James added 21 points and 11 rebounds as the seventh-seeded Lakers beat the No. 2 seed Memphis Grizzlies 128-112 on Sunday in the opening game of their series.

Memphis had the NBA's best home record at 35-6 but no longer has home-court advantage against LA. Game 2 is Wednesday at FedExForum, and the Grizzlies have major concerns about star Ja Morant, who aggravated a right hand injury.

"We didn't execute the priorities of the game plan," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said. "Get back. Execute half-court defense and get rebounds."

Austin Reaves added 23 points, including nine straight in the closing minutes as the Lakers pulled away. Anthony Davis had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell, who scored only two points in the Lakers' play-in win over the Minnesota Timberwolves, finished with 19 points.

Hachimura missed only one of his nine shots in the second half, including making all five of his 3-point attempts.

"The second half, we were in a good rhythm," Hachimura said. "We were sharing the ball and all the shots just came to me."

Reaves added: "Rui was huge (Sunday). His skillset is crazy. For us to get him with all the talent we have, it just brings another aspect to our team."

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 31 points, while Desmond Bane scored 22. Morant had 18 points before leaving in the fourth quarter with the hand injury. The Grizzlies' leading scorer's availability

for Game 2 is uncertain.

"I'm in a good bit of pain," Morant said. "My main focus was to be out there for my guys. Another incident where, you know, that's pretty much in jeopardy."

It was Hachimura from Japan who provided Los Angeles some breathing room in the third quarter, connecting on all four of his 3-point attempts. Hachimura's only previous playoff experience was in 2021 with Washington, which lost a first-round series to Philadelphia. The Lakers acquired him from the Wizards in a midseason trade.

CLIPPERS 115, SUNS 100

PHOENIX (AP)—Kawhi Leonard had a great shooting night while Russell Westbrook had a horrible one.

Both players nonetheless had a huge impact for the Los Angeles Clippers in their 115-110 win over the Phoenix Suns in the teams' Western Conference playoff series opener on Sunday.

Leonard poured in 38 points, including two late 3-pointers, while Westbrook was a menace everywhere except the scoring column. The veteran guard shot just 3 of 19 from the field, but finished with nine points, 10 rebounds, eight assists, three blocks and two steals.

"My whole career, I pride myself every season on doing everything," Westbrook said. "Whatever is needed of me to win the game, I'll do it."

That's exactly what happened in the final 30 seconds. Westbrook made a pair of free throws with 17.7 seconds left for a three-point lead, then blocked Devin Booker's layup attempt at the other end and swatted the ball off Booker to give the Clippers the ball with

10.1 seconds remaining.

Eric Gordon added 19 points and hit a late 3 that kept the Clippers ahead.

Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Suns, who lost for the first time with him on the floor. Phoenix acquired the two-time NBA Finals MVP from Brooklyn in February, and injuries limited him to eight games—all Suns wins.

Devin Booker added 26 points for Phoenix, which will try to avoid falling into a 2-0 hole at home on Tuesday.

The Suns trailed 109-103 with 1:33 remaining but scored the next five points. The Clippers grabbed multiple offensive rebounds on the ensuing possession before Westbrook made his critical free throws.

"Making winning plays, getting deflections on balls, offensive rebounding, getting us into our sets—that is playoff basketball," Leonard said. "You might not have the best night shooting, but you've got to impact the game some type of way and he did that tonight."

Los Angeles led for much of the game until midway through the third quarter. Torrey Craig made back-to-back buckets, including one on a powerful fast-break dunk, to push Phoenix ahead 70-68, part of a 15-0 run that concluded with a 77-68 Suns lead.

The Clippers, led by Leonard's 12 points in the third, recovered to tie the game at 81-all heading into the fourth.

"They're going to make a run at home, we understood that," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "We built a lead, they made a run, and now we've got to keep our composure and be ready to fight back. I thought everyone who played tonight was great."

NUGGETS 109, TIMBERWOLVES 80

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 24 points and dished out eight assists in his first playoff game since the 2020 NBA bubble and the top-seeded Denver Nuggets routed the Minnesota Timberwolves 109-80 Sunday night.

Nikola Jokic added 13 points, 14 rebounds and a half dozen assists in 28 minutes and Michael Porter Jr. scored 18 points as Denver snapped a five-game skid in playoff openers.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 18 points. Karl-Anthony Towns, who was rounding into form this month after missing 52 games with a bad calf, missed 10 of his first 12 shots and finished with 11 points.

The Timberwolves hadn't been held to so few points since Nov. 19, 2016.

Jokic said during the Nuggets' week off that he was eager to see how they'd do with Murray and Porter back in the lineup with him after injuries and surgeries waylaid Denver's Big Three each of the last two postseasons.

The answer was emphatic: the trio combined for 55 points, 33 rebounds and 16 assists—with just two combined turnovers—as all five of Denver's starters scored in double figures as did reserve Bruce Brown, who chipped in 14.

The Nuggets were the only one of four home teams to win Sunday as the Bucks, Grizzlies and Suns all surrendered homecourt advantage to lower seeds in the first round.

The opener marked Murray's first playoff appearance since his breakout performance in the 2020 NBA bubble, when he twice put up 50 points on the Jazz in helping the Nuggets reach the Western Conference Finals where they lost to LeBron James and the Lakers. Murray tore his left ACL eight months later and missed the Nuggets' last two playoff runs.

"It is kind of wild to think it's been that long," Denver coach Michael Malone said before tip-off. "I'm just so happy for him, proud of him. It has not been an easy journey for him, but I think this year, we've seen Jamal have moments where that's the Jamal Murray that we all love and remember."

"I think he's just really excited to get back out there, play, and remind people of what he's capable of. We know how important he is to us. I'm just very, very thankful that, we as a team, are healthy going into the postseason."

Gerrit Cole throws MLB's 2nd complete game of season



NEW YORK (AP) — Gerrit Cole

pitched a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his fourth career shutout and the second complete game in the majors this season, leading the New York Yankees to a 2-0 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Sunday.

DJ LeMahieu homered and hit an RBI single for the Yankees, who earned a split of the four-game series.

Cole (4-0) lowered his ERA to 0.95 in four starts, finishing off the Twins on 109 pitches in 2 hours, 7 minutes. He got the final nine out on 25 pitches and retired former Astros teammate Carlos Correa to end it.

It was Cole's seventh career complete game and his first shutout since July 10, 2021, at Houston.



New York Yankees starting pitcher Gerrit Cole, right, celebrates with his teammates after closing the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins to record a complete game shutout, Sunday, April 16, 2023, in New York.

METS 4, ATHLETICS 3, 10 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Pete Alonso tied the score in the ninth inning with his major league-leading eighth home run, and New York beat the struggling Oakland Athletics to complete a three-game sweep.

Eduardo Escobar scored the go-ahead in the 10th on a wild pitch by Sam Moll (0-2). Francisco Lindor and Tommy Pham also homered for the Mets, who won their fourth straight.

Brandon Nimmo made two diving catches in center field, including one that saved the game in the ninth. David Robertson pitched out of trouble in the 10th for his fourth save.

Jimmy Yacabonis (1-0) worked a scoreless inning to win his Mets debut.

RED SOX 2, ANGELS 1

BOSTON (AP)—Garrett Whitlock threw seven innings of one-run ball and Justin Turner hit a two-run homer to give Boston a win over Los Angeles in a game that lasted just under two hours.

Los Angeles star Shohei Ohtani had his 36-game on-base streak halted; it had been the longest in MLB.

Whitlock (1-1) allowed three hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Ryan Brasier got the final three outs for his first save — including striking out Mike Trout and getting Ohtani to fly out.

Reid Detmers (0-1) was given the loss in an outing where he gave up two runs on six hits, struck out seven and walked one in 6 1/3 innings.

CARDINALS 5, PIRATES 4, 10 INNINGS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Tommy

Edman hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a win over Pittsburgh to salvage a split of the four-game series.

With runners on first and second and one out, Nolan Gorman drove in Paul Goldschmidt with a tying double. Lars Nootbaar was walked intentionally by Wil Crowe (0-1) and rookie Jordan Walker struck out before Edman singled back up the middle.

Nootbaar hit a two-run homer for the Cardinals, and Nolan Arenado, Willson Contreras and Gorman each had two hits.

Drew VerHagen (1-0) got three outs for the win, allowing an unearned run in the top of the 10th on Canaan Smith-Njigba's groundout to first.

RAYS 8, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Shane Bieber pitched six effective innings in his fourth straight win, and Tampa Bay avoided a three-game sweep by Toronto.

Christian Bethancourt hit a three-run homer to help the Rays rebounded from their first two losses of the season. Yandy Díaz reached four times, and Josh Lowe had two hits and three RBIs.

McClanahan (4-0) allowed one run and four hits. He struck out six and walked two.

Blue Jays right-hander Alek Manoah (1-1) matched career-worst by allowing seven runs and nine hits. He walked four and struck out five in 4 2/3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP)—Zac Gallen pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning in Arizona's win over Sandy

Alcantara and Miami.

Corbin Carroll homered for Arizona, and Pavin Smith and Christian Walker also had two hits apiece.

Gallen (2-1) retired his first 13 batters before Bryan De La Cruz singled with one out in the fifth. Gallen struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings and walked none. Kevin Ginkel then got four outs before Kyle Nelson finished a four-hitter.

Alcantara (1-2) permitted five runs, four earned, and seven hits in six innings. He's dropped his last two starts after throwing a complete-game three-hitter in a 1-0 victory over Minnesota on April 4.

MARINERS 1, ROCKIES 0

SEATTLE (AP)—Luis Castillo retired his first 18 batters, Jarred Kelenic hit an RBI single and Seattle completed a three-game sweep.

Kelenic extended his hitting streak to a career-best 10 games and played outstanding defense in right field, including a diving catch in the eighth inning that saved a run.

Castillo (1-0) struck out the side in the second and fanned eight over the first six innings before Jurickson Profar led off the seventh for the Rockies with a soft single to left-center. Castillo permitted two hits and struck out nine in seven innings. Justin Topa worked a one-hit eighth.

Paul Sewald struck out the top three batters in the order to finish the three-hitter and earn his fourth save.

Dinelson Lamet (1-1) walked two in the sixth be-

fore Brad Hand gave up Kelenic's run-scoring single.

CUBS 3, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Patrick Wisdom homered for the third straight game, Cody Bellinger also went deep and Chicago took two of three in the series.

Wisdom and Bellinger connected back-to-back in the sixth inning. Drew Smyly (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Chris Taylor homered for the Dodgers, who scored six runs all weekend. Julio Urias (3-1) gave up two earned runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings, the first time this season he allowed multiple runs in a start.

Wisdom became the third Cubs player to hit three home runs in a series at Dodger Stadium, joining Dave Kingman and Gary Matthews.

NATIONALS 7, GUARDIANS 6

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington tied the game on a reviewed call in the eighth inning and Joey Meneses followed with a go-ahead RBI single two batters later for a win over Cleveland that averted a three-game sweep.

Jeimer Candelario and Luis García homered for Washington, which snapped a four-game skid. Washington starter Patrick Corbin allowed four runs, two of them earned, in six innings. Mason Thompson (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Kyle Finnegan handled the ninth for his third save.

Steven Kwan drove in two runs for the Guardians, who fell to 7-3 on the road. Nick Sandlin got the loss. Cleveland starter Shane Bieber al-

lowed three runs and struck out four in six innings.

ORIOLES 8, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Cedric Mullins had three hits and four RBIs, including a tiebreaking single in Baltimore's three-run eighth inning, and the Orioles rallied for the win in the rubber game of the weekend series.

Gunnar Henderson had two hits and scored three times. The Orioles erased a shaky start by Grayson Rodriguez with a 12-hit attack.

Chicago scored each of its four runs in the first. Gavin Sheets hit a three-run homer, and Jake Burger added a solo drive.

Mike Baumann (2-0), Austin Voth and Félix Bautista combined for four innings of one-hit ball in relief of Rodriguez. The rookie right-hander allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked two in his third big league start.

BRAVES 5, ROYALS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Vaughn Grissom hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the ninth, Ozzie Albies homered and Atlanta beat Kansas City for the series sweep.

Grissom's RBI single came after Albies hit a one-out double. Albies went 2 for 4, including his 376-foot solo homer to right field in the fourth for his fifth RBI of the series. Matt Olson hit a two-run triple in Atlanta's three-run third inning.

Atlanta starter Kyle Wright struck out six across 5 2/3 innings. Reliever Nick Anderson (1-0) got the win and A.J. Minter got his third save of the year.

Zack Greinke gave up four runs on four hits in six in-

nings with six strikeouts and a walk. Scott Barlow (0-2) allowed a run on two hits with two strikeouts.

BREWERS 1, PADRES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Wade Miley pitched seven sharp innings and Devin Williams escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth, helping Milwaukee beat Yu Darvish and San Diego.

Brian Anderson hit a sacrifice fly in the second for the game's only run as Milwaukee took three of four in the series.

Miley (2-1) allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked none. San Diego threatened in the second, putting a runner on third with one out, but Miley struck out Trent Grisham and Jose Azocar.

San Diego wasted a dominant performance by Darvish (0-2), who struck out 12 in seven innings. He allowed four hits and walked two in his 50th career start with double-digit strikeouts.

PHILLIES 14, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Philadelphia bounced back from one of its worst losses of the early season with a drubbing Cincinnati to earn a split of their four-game series.

Bryson Stott hit a lead-off home run, Brandon Marsh had four hits, Trea Turner and Alec Bohm each had three hits for the Phillies. Jake Cave tied his career high with four runs batted in as the hot-and-cold Phillies reached double figures in runs for the second time in less than a week.

Aaron Nola (1-2) gave up five hits and three runs, two earned, with three walks and four strikeouts in six innings.

Luis Cessa (0-2) allowed a career-high 14 hits and 11 runs with three walks and no strikeouts in a season-low three innings.

RANGERS 9, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Marcus Semien hit a grand slam to cap a six-run seventh inning as Texas won a series in Houston for the first time since July 2018.

The Rangers, who took two of three, had lost 10 straight series in Houston.

Nathaniel Lowe doubled leading off the seventh, tying his career high with an 11-game hitting streak. After a critical error by shortstop Jeremy Peña, Jonah Heim drew a bases-loaded walk.

Robbie Grossman followed with an RBI single to chase Astros starter Framber Valdez (1-2). Héctor Neris retired the next two batters before Semien's grand slam.

Andrew Heaney permitted two hits over five shutout innings for Texas. Brock Burke (1-0) won in relief.

'Mich' Ultra Cup starts today with 12 teams

By **MARK RABAGO**

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 2023 "Mich" Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League will uncork today, April 18, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The opening ceremony is scheduled to start at 5:30pm with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios expected to make the ceremonial toss on opening day in the newly refurbished and air-conditioned gymnasium at the Oleai Sports Complex.

A total of 12 teams will be seeing action in the premier competition of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

The dozen teams contending for the "Mich" Ultra Cup are Team Marianas of Coby Santos, Chioni Dela Cruz, and Lucio Aldan; OG Rollers of Frankie Satur and Don Teregeyo; Save More of Joseph Torres and John Mejari-



MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee and participating teams sort out the 2nd 2023 "Mich" Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League rosters during the technical meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room last week.

to; Ali'i Blue Haus of Elmer Esdreton, Brendon Talania, and Jaymark De Guzman; Martech Ol'Aces of Douglas

Schmidt, Airson Atan, and Freddie Pelisamen; Bridge Capital of Craig Padayao and Matt Duenas; CK Saints

of Kelvin Fitial and Leo Galarse, Unity Trade of Raymond Velasco and Austin Camacho; La Mesa Kusina of DJ Ong and Tony Kim; Socho of Jonathan Limes and John Nekaifes; New Chang Ming Market of Mac Mintac and Rodel Pastrana; ad Roil Soil OG of Keoni Chariton and Ponce Rasa.

League commissioner Marlene Lumabi wished all the 12 teams the best of luck in the upcoming tournament.

"I'm excited to see everyone come out and play. Good luck to all the teams and let's have a solid tournament!" she said.

Two games will be played each play date, which are Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The league will be using FIBA rules and regulations and teams are allowed

a maximum of 14 players each—with at least five players 21 years old or older—along with three coaches.

Participating teams will be divided into two pools—Pool A and Pool B. Teams in each pool will play each other in a round-robin affair with the Top 4 teams advancing to a single-elimination format.

Under that crossover format, the top seed in Pool A will take on the fourth seed in Pool B, second seed in Pool A will play the third seed in Pool B, third seed in Pool A will square off against the second seed in Pool B, and the fourth seed in Pool A will duke it out against the top seed in Pool B. The four surviving teams will then play each other for the two slots in the finals.

As for the prizes, the champion team will receive

a much ballyhooed House at MarPac perpetual trophy, \$500 in cash, five cases of Michelob Ultra, and 17 Michelob Ultra diddy bags,

NMIBF earlier said it was naming the league's MVP the Uncle Paul Shimizu MVP Award.

Shimizu was not only one of MarPac's owners, but also was a former Guam national basketball player, gold medalist, and national coach.

Shimizu, who passed away in March 2021, was the youngest of four siblings born to Ambrosio Shimizu, the founder of Ambros, Inc., which owns MarPac.

As such, the player who wins the Uncle Paul Shimizu MVP Award will get an MVP trophy, \$200 cash, a case of Michelob Ultra, a Michelob Ultra cooler, a Michelob Ultra Yeti flask, and other Michelob Ultra gear.

For more information and inquiries, email the organizing NMIBF at nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com.

By **LEIGH GASES**

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REPORTER



A gap e Christian School students put their running into fifth gear as they topped the male and female divisions of the CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Walk/Run last Saturday morning.

Jireh Wang cruised to the finish line first just four seconds above 20 minutes, while Samuel Zhu came in at 22:39 for second place. Daryll De Luna clocked in third with 24:48.

The Top 3 females are Barbara Wang, Emma Pang, and Jay Anne Felipe (they have no official times).

For both Wangs, they said that the course was a breeze to get through as there wasn't much competition. Both are athletes in ACS with Jireh in the cross country team, while Barbara is also in the cross country team along with volleyball and basketball.

From the route that began and ended at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Club Elan parking lot, about 35 runners participated in the free race hosted by

ACS students fastest in CHCC 5K



LEIGH GASES

From left, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., public health associate for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Martine Fulling, first place Barbara Wang, second place Emma Pang, third place Jay Anne Felipe, and NMA general secretary Robin Sapong after the CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk last Saturday.

the Northern Marianas Athletics/Run Saipan and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Martine Fulling, public health associate for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention who was at the race along with CHCC staff, said "April's Oral Cancer Awareness Month and so we wanted to have an event that kind of brought the community together. We decided to partner with Run Saipan because we

have common goals of making a healthier CNMI so we came together for a really nice partnership to have in this event this morning."

They also lined the finish line with paper bags decorated by children with the Oral Cancer Awareness Month as CHCC did outreach at schools.

As for the race turnout, she said "it was good. There were lots of people. I think it was

raining in other parts of the island so not everybody that registered came but I'm pretty happy with how it turned out.

NMA thanked the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Run Saipan, and the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Saipan International School, Department of Public Safety, PDI, CCVI Canoe Federation, IT&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan, The Shack, and volunteers.



LEIGH GASES

From left, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., public health associate for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Martine Fulling, first place Jireh Wang, second place Samuel Zhu, third place Daryll De Luna, and NMA general secretary Robin Sapong after the CHCC Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Run/Walk last Saturday.

DOUBLE

From Page 20

First Game

Double A Corp. 86 – Baul 18, Sedillo 9, Capuyon 9, Lontoc 9, Catalla 8, Rivera 7, Palero 7, Jugos 7, De Belen 4, Pablo 3, Tolentino 3, Cabaluna 2.

RNV Construction 67 – R. Rueda 22, Jumaquio 12, Naval 11, J. Rueda 9, Ramos 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-

16, 46-35, 61-51, 86-67.

Second Game

The Game 65 – Richardson 11, Arellano 11, G. Sablan 10, J. Sablan 7, Deleon Guerrero 6, Mizutani 5, Bravo 5, King 4, Ong 3, Natividad 2, Ferrari 1.

Socho Team 45 – Jones 9, Taisague 9, Limes 6, Quitugua 5, Aguon 5, Faisao 4, Phillips 4, Guerrero 2, Mettao 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-14, 35-30, 54-34, 65-45.

CARDINALS

From Page 20

The Brewers then managed to shut down the Cardinals in the second inning and tied the game up, 7-7 after multiple singles and a two-run RBI double from Tim Cruz.

The Cardinals came back guns a-blazing in the sixth inning for another lucky seven-run inning after five runs in the previous innings for a 20-10 game.

In the CK Bears-SPC Survivors game the night before, the Bears pummeled

the Survivors, 9-4.

The Bears pitcher Virgil Secharmidal was dominant on the mound as he struck out the side in the first three innings, while the Bears' offense also put in the work as they produced eight runs in three innings, then one in the fourth.

The Survivors perished even though they put up four runs as the Bears' nine runs held up and secured the win.

In the standings, the Bears are undefeated with two wins, while the Survivors and Brewers have no wins and two losses.

MS

From Page 20

3,000m into first place with a time of 10:58.94; far behind him in second was Yong Lin of HMS at 13:51.75; and third was Emerson Brillo at 14:19.89.

Barbara Wang was first in the 14U girls 3,000m

at 13:31.31; Emma Sablan from Saipan Community School was second at 14:09.62; and Faith Arriola from SIS came in third at 14:20.84.

In the 14U boys shot put event, D'Anthony Aldan came out on top with a distance of 8.00m; Yong Lin was second with 7.39m; and third was Aiden Gimed of

FMS with 7.35m.

For the 14U girls shot put, Kailani Laniyo from DMS was first with 7.79m; second was Phoenix Gross from SIS with 5.79m; and Mikenna Nishimura from FMS was third at 5.79m.

Top 3 of the 14U boys discus throw were DMS students Zion Rogopes with 21.81m; Ceber Terry with

19.29; and Deion Tupas with 16.83.

Top 3 of the 14U girls discus throw were Taylor Cruz from COVMS with 14.19m; Kailani Laniyo with 13.75; and Jaida Harris with 12.64.

Results of the other middle school and high school qualifiers will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.



Heat rip Bucks
130-117 in Game
1; Giannis, Herro
injured
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'Mich' Ultra Cup
starts today with
12 teams

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Double A Corp., The Game rout opponents

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Double A Corp. and The Game posted lopsided wins in the masters and open divisions, respectively, of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



In the first game, Double A. Corp led after the end of all quarters and beat winless RNV Construction, 86-67, for its first win in three games.

After a slim 21-16 lead, Double A. Corp padded that advantage to 46-35 at the half.

RNV Construction managed to trim a point off their deficit after three quarters of

Double A Corp.'s John Capuyon drives to the basket against a phalanx of RNV Construction defenders in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



play, 61-51, but that was all she wrote for the 0-5 team as they lost by 19 points.

Center Ariel Baul led a strong Double A. Corp. charge with 18 points, while guards Fradel Sedillo and John Capuyon combined for 18 markers in support.

Ronald Rueda continued to be a bright spot for the otherwise awful RNV Construction with 22 points, while Jojit Jumaquio added 12 in support.

In the second game, The Game improved to 3-1 after thumping Socho Team, 65-45.

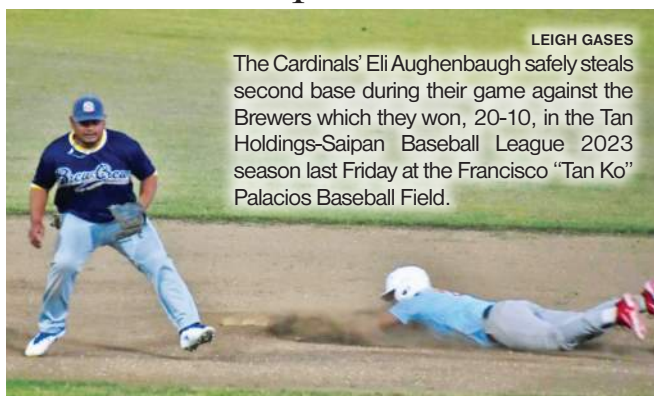
The match was competitive only in the first 20 minutes of action that saw The Game take 18-14 and 35-30 leads after the first and second quarters.

The Game, however, made it into a monumental mismatch at the start of the second half, taking a 54-34 spread after three quarters of play before cruising to the 20-point win.

Matthew Richardson and Arnold Arellano led a balanced attack for The Game with 11 markers each, while Socho was spearheaded by the 9 points each of Dee Jones and Athan Taisague. Socho lost its fourth straight game.

See DOUBLE on Page 19

Cardinals swoops third win in SBL



The Cardinals' Eli Aughenbaugh safely steals second base during their game against the Brewers which they won, 20-10, in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Cardinals swooped their third win for an undefeated campaign in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season after they beat the Brewers senseless, 20-10, under the Friday night lights at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

In a repeat of their last shut-out win, the Cardinals stormed home plate early for a seven-run first inning.

Brewers pitcher Shane Mal-

lens could not locate the strike zone as he walked the Cardinals' lead off batters Shane Yamada and Nokki Saralu, with the latter running into scoring position off a stolen base. Two runs eventually came in after a sacrifice fly from Poland Masaharu.

The Cardinals went up and down their lineup twice as the Brewers committed multiple errors on the field which they capitalized on for the seven-run inning.

See CARDINALS on Page 19

MS wraps up 1st day of athletics qualifiers

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Middle school students took to the track to start off the 14U qualifiers in the NMA/PSS All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

The events they participated in were the 200m, 800m, 3,000m, shot put, and discus.

In the 14U boys 200m, first place was Audiescott Iakopo from Saipan International School with a time of 26.17; second was Shulun He of Agape Christian School at 27.56; and Emerson Brillo from Hopwood Middle School came in third with 27.69 seconds.

Aubrey White from SIS

led the 14U girls 200m with 31.11; second was Paige Blanco from ChaCha Ocean View Middle School at 31.67; and third was Alyssa Mendiola from DanDan Middle School at 31.87 seconds.

Michael Miller from Grace Christian Academy topped

the 14U boys 800m with a time of 2:18.88; second was Landen Taflinger from DMS with 2:32.61; and third was D'Anthony Aldan from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School at 2:32.87.

The 14U girls 800m was dominated by Addalee

Taflinger of DMS under three minutes at 2:50.19; followed by Aubrey White at 3:04.86; and Barbara Wang from ACS at 3:06.23.

Michael Miller was still the fleetest afoot as he sprinted through the 14U boys

See MS on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

D'Anthony Aldan from Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, right, leads the pack during a sprint event in the middle school qualifiers of the NMA/PSS All School Athletics last Wednesday at the Oleai track and field.